Tanong ng Bayan/A18

Dapat bang limitahan ang dami ng anak?

WIN A 21" TV! TEXT 2910

■ **World / A9**

Nearly 300 killed in Paraguay supermarket fire

■ **Metro / A19**

Sergeant gets life for Baron Cervantes slay

■ **Across / A16**

'Jueteng' linked to killing of radioman

■ **Entertainment / A28**

Mikey wants to play role of Angelo

Palace remark on oil prices irks watchdog

By Gil Cabacungan Jr. and Abigail L. Ho

FOR SUGGESTING that a group monitoring oil price increases was engaged in a "guessing game," a Malacañang official was called "oversensitive" and

PALACE/ A18

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Abandoned fetus raises population policy question

By Volt Contreras and TJ Burgonio

A CHILLING "message" against the proposed "two-child policy?"

Early morning worshippers were shocked to find a male fetus inside the Our Lady of Miraculous Medal church in Project 4, Quezon City, a parish supervised by activist priest

ABANDONED / A6

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph

Tuesday, August 3, 2004 ★★ 44 pages / 4 sections / vol. 19 / no. 237 P18

website: www.inq7.net

US sounds alarm on al-Qaida attacks

Bombing targets listed in New York, Washington

NEW YORK—Some of the most powerful symbols of Western capitalism could be the next targets of terror attacks by al-Qaida militants in the United States.

This was the warning issued by US officials yesterday as they raised the alert levels in Washington and New York after receiving chilling intelligence reports that extremists linked to Saudi-born militant Osama bin Laden were again aiming for the world's financial heart.

In an unprecedented action, the US government named specific buildings in densely populated areas as among the potential targets:

- Citigroup buildings and the New York Stock Exchange in New York City. Citigroup, with more than 25,000 employees, is the world's largest financial company and its 59-story building is the third largest in midtown Manhattan.
- The International Monetary Fund and World Bank buildings in Washington. Nearly 10,000 employees work at the two buildings.
- Prudential Financial Inc.'s headquarters in northern New Jersey.

Washington police said they had also beefed up security at the Federal Reserve and Bureau of Engraving.

The IMF and the World Bank have long been the targets of criticism for imposing strict austerity measures on borrowing poor countries, which allegedly tended to further deepen their economic hardships.

Both the IMF and World Bank are located within a few minutes' walk of the White House.

"The preferred means of attack would be car or truck bombs," Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge told television audiences in the midst of baseball games and other national pastimes. "That would be a primary means of attack."

The government said the new intelligence indicated the meticulous planning of al-Qaida.

Ridge said the government's threat level for financial institutions in the three cities would be raised to orange, or high alert, but

US SOUNDS/ A17

Burnham didn't clear AFP, court video shows

By Christian V. Esguerra

A COURT video taken by an amateur tells the real story.

In an unprecedented move and to set the record straight, Pasig Judge Lorifel Pahimna yesterday allowed mediamen to view videotaped proceedings which indisputably showed that American missionary Grace Burnham did not clear the military of allegations of connivance with the Abu Sayyaf.

Department of Justice prosecutors had said she did.

"*Wala nga* (There was really nothing)," State Prosecutor Aristotle Reyes was heard by the INQUIRER muttering to himself after seeing the video, which had been taken by a court employee who dabbles in shooting pictures.

Nowhere in the videotape did the former American hostage mention anything about the supposed collusion—the bogey that has haunted the military leadership to this day.

Pahimna made the video available to ABS-CBN, GMA 7, The Associated Press and the INQUIRER in the wake of confusion triggered by justice officials' pronouncements shortly after Burnham's testimony last Thursday during a special court hearing in Camp Bagong Diwa in Bicutan.

The judge also allowed mediamen to listen to a separate audio tape recording of the proceedings.

In the audio tape, as in the video, Burnham remained silent while prosecution and defense lawyers wrangled around her.

In the video, the collusion issue arose when defense lawyer Moises de Castro asked Burnham during cross examination: "Do you think there is a (sic) connivance between the AFP and the ASG?"

Burnham had not even opened her lips when State Prosecutor Peter Medalle objected, saying the question called for an "opinion."

Two other state prosecutors also simultaneously raised objections.

The video captured Pahimna

BURNHAM/ A17

ARLENE Aguirre plays with her 2-year-old conjoined twins Carl and Clarence at The Children's Hospital in New York. The twins will undergo a fourth delicate operation to separate them on Wednesday.

AP FILE PHOTO

Conjoined RP boys on brink of separate lives

NEW YORK—If all goes well during a daylong operation on Wednesday, Carl and Clarence Aguirre, 2-year-old twins from the Philippines joined at the top of their heads, will wake up in separate beds.

For the first time, they'll be able to look into each other's faces. And they should soon be able to sit up, stand straight and walk for the first time—no longer the toddlers who couldn't toddle.

"I can't wait to see how they react," said Dr. David Staffenberg, the plastic surgeon on the team that plans to separate the boys at Montefiore Medical Center in the Bronx. "I can imagine them looking at each other and thinking, 'I know that guy, but how come he's over there?'"

Since last year, Carl and Clarence have been the focus of a determined effort by their mother, Arlene Aguirre, as well as two hospitals and a medical team donating their services. The doctors have taken a surgical approach employed only a few times before on conjoined twins, replacing the typical marathon two-day operation with four shorter procedures over 10 months.

The aim is not only the survival of both boys—often one twin dies, even if one makes it through such surgery—but to increase their long-term chances without major complications. ***(See related story on Page A6.)***

Still, Staffenberg said, success

CONJOINED/ A6

PARTY-LIST SYSTEM

Groups defend pork barrel fund

By Cynthia D. Balana

(Last of two parts)

SPECIAL REPORT

IS THE party-list system in the Philippines a waste of people's money?

Public accountability has traditionally focused on how people in a particular organization perform and how they use taxes. Party-list representatives themselves are accountable to their own groups, which require them to toe the party line.

Rep. Rene Velarde of the party-list group Buhay learned this the hard way. During the impeachment of Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. late last year, Velarde was one of the congressmen who signed the impeachment complaint. But during the deliberations in the House of Representatives, he was forced to withdraw his signature because his party did not approve of it.

"That's one lesson that I learned—to subordinate my opinion to the party. I should have consulted first with the party. They can always remove me. I have learned my lesson," Velarde said.

This kind of discipline separates party-list members of the House from legislators representing congressional districts.

The advocacy of the group should never be diluted, no matter how popular a particular action is, according to Renato Magtubo, representative of the party-list group Partido ng Manggagawa.

Like Velarde, Magtubo signed the Davide impeachment complaint but later withdrew his signature. He realized that while his party wanted to protect the court workers' right to the Judicial Development Fund, the issue became partisan and reportedly a per-

GROUPS/ A17

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

AKBAYAN'S Rosales: Media do not provide much space for party-list lawmakers and advocacies.

PDI PHOTO

YORAC: Building people's confidence in government.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

ABADIANO: Helping Alangan Mangyans build their dream school.

2 Filipinos among Magsaysay awardees

By Dona Pazzibugan and Madonna T. Virola
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

ONE IS a prominent lawyer, professor of law and public official known for her honesty and vigor; the other is a low-profile volunteer worker assisting indigenous people, drawn as he is to their spartan simplicity.

These two Filipinos—Haydee Yorac, chair of the Philippine Commission on Good Government, and Benjamin Abadiano, president of the Ilawan Center for Peace and Sustainable Development—are among the seven recipients this year of the Ramon Magsaysay Awards, the Asian equivalent of the Nobel Prize.

Yorac has been elected to receive the RMA for government service and Abadiano, for emergent leadership.

The five other "remarkable Asians" are Jiang Yanyong of China, for public service; Prayong Ronnarong of Thailand, for community leadership; Abdullah Abu Sayeed of Bangladesh, for journalism, literature and creative communication arts; Laxminarayan Ramdas of India and Ibn Abdur Rehman of Pakistan, for peace and international understanding.

The 47-year-old RMA Foundation picked the awardees for "their purposeful leadership, unwavering convictions, and earnest compassion towards their fellowmen."

The award is given yearly to individuals or organizations in Asia who "manifest the same sense of selfless service that ruled that life of the late and beloved Filipino leader."

"In a world increasingly burdened by conflict, inequity and cynicism, these remarkable Asians are acting boldly and effectively to address critical concerns in ways that inspire collaboration and hope," noted foundation president Carmencita T. Abella.

Since the awards were first given

2 FILIPINOS/ A18

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

TUESDAY, AUGUST 3, 2004

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Central and Southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of Luzon will be parlty cloudy to cloudy with rainshowers and thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY. RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/08/03/04

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	**Iloilo/Bacolod**	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	**Roxas**	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	**Cebu**	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	**Tacloban**	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	**Gen. Santos**	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	**Zamboanga**	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	**Cagayan de Oro**	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	**Davao**	Cloudy with Rains

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Second FRONTPAGE

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Military bares MILF arms delivery

THE COUNTRY'S largest Muslim rebel group has received a large shipment of automatic rifles and ammunition, prompting security officials yesterday to call into question their sincerity about peace talks with the government.

The shipment, the first of four to the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), arrived two weeks ago in two southern coastal towns, security officials said.

The arms arrival raised doubts over the sincerity of the MILF in pursuing peace talks with the government to end a 30-year-old conflict in southern Mindanao island.

"The rebels continue to acquire weapons, recruit and train guerrillas despite the ongoing peace talks," a senior military intelligence official told Reuters, asking not to be identified.

"We seriously doubt the rebels' sincerity in talking peace with government. They are doing something different from what they are actually saying." The MILF had received 1,190 automatic rifles and hundreds of thousands of ammunition rounds in two shipments that arrived on July 24 in Palembang town, Sultan Kudarat province and Kapatagan town in Lanao del Sur province, a senior Department of Defense official said.

The shipments were the first of four planned deliveries this year, he said. The MILF was also trying to acquire several heavy machine guns and mortars, military officials said.

Military officials said they did not know where the shipments had come from. They did not say why they were unable to stop the import of the arms.

The military deployed three battalions along the Lanao coastline a day after the reported delivery of the arms in Kapatagan, but found no trace of the weapons.

Benjie Midtimbang, head of the rebels' ceasefire panel, said the MILF did not know of any arms shipment and called the military report "unsubstantiated."

"That's a very serious violation of the ceasefire agreement," he told Reuters. "We will not create any incident that may disrupt the peace process. That will not happen."

Maj. Dickson Hermoso, who sits on the government's ceasefire panel, said the report would be investigated by both sides.

"We had discussions about that incident and these places will be among those to be inspected this month by the ceasefire panels of both sides," he said.

The panels have policed a year-long ceasefire in the conflict between the government and the MILF, which is fighting for independence for Muslim areas and publicly rejects terrorism.

Several issues stand in the way of a resumption of formal peace talks brokered by Malaysia, including suspicions that the MILF is sheltering members of regional militant group Jemaah Islamiyah (JI).

Last week, the MILF agreed to open some of its bases to joint inspections with government forces looking for JI militants. *Reuters*

Miriam gets foreign relations committee; Joker keeps Blue Ribbon

Roxas chairs trade; Gordon, tourism; Revilla, public works; Lapid, local government

By Christine O. Avendaño

SEN. MIRIAM Defensor-Santiago is getting the chairmanship of the committee on foreign relations, sealing her alliance with the majority in the Senate, at least for now.

Santiago's committee assignment came after the 14-member Senate majority met for three hours yesterday to finalize the chairmanships of all the 36 Senate committees.

But the senators emerged from the meeting after having resolved the leadership of only 21 committees, according to Senate President Franklin Drilon.

Santiago was a no-show at the luncheon meeting yesterday but Drilon said that she had "delegated to Sen. Manuel Villar [the job of] relaying her position [to the caucus]."

Drilon said Villar told the meeting that Santiago had proposed that she chair the Senate committee on foreign relations, which was headed by Villar himself.

"Manny Villar has agreed to cede that committee to Senator Santiago," Drilon announced at a news conference after the caucus.

DEFENSOR-SANTIAGO: A picture of a happy senator but a no-show at the luncheon meeting.

JESS YUSON

Asked if Santiago's new assignment meant she was aligning herself with the majority, Drilon quoted Villar and Majority Leader Sen. Francis Pangilinan as saying that Santiago was sticking with the majority.

With the latest Senate assignments, Villar would still get the chairmanship of the finance committee as well as the committee on public order and illegal drugs.

Sen. Joker Arroyo retained the chairmanship of the Blue Ribbon committee and the public services committee.

Majority Leader Francis Pangilinan will still head the committee on rules, while Sen. Ralph Recto retains the committee on ways and means.

On the other hand, Senate President Pro Tempore Juan Flavier now chairs the committee on education, arts and culture, while Sen. Pia Cayetano got the chairmanship of the committees on health and demography as well as on the environment and natural resources.

Also getting two chairmanships were neophyte Senators Mar Roxas (trade and commerce as well as economic affairs), Richard Gordon (tourism and government corporations and public enterprises), Ramon Revilla Jr., (public works as well as labor, employment and human resources) and Lito Lapid (games and amusement as well as local government).

Sen. Ramon Magsaysay heads the committee on agriculture and food, while Sen. Rodolfo Biazon heads the committee on national defense as well as on housing.

Drilon said the Senate majority would continue to discuss the chairmanship of the 15 remaining committees, which would go to majority senators who head a single committee so far.

But the Senate president said that of the 36 committees, the majority would give "at least one" to the minority.

"As a matter of principle, the majority has agreed to share the burden of the Senate work by offering the opposition chairmanships of the remaining committees," Drilon said.

VILLAR yields foreign relations, keeps finance

But opposition Senators Edgardo Angara, Panfilo Lacson and Aquilino Pimentel Jr. merely shrugged off Drilon's offer.

Angara said the nine-member minority was not expecting to be given committee chairmanships.

"*Kung kaya nila magtrabaho* okay *lang*(If they can do the job, it's okay)," he told reporters, referring to the majority.

For his part, Lacson said the minority would not shed tears because no committee chairmanship came its way.

Minority Leader Pimentel said the opposition "couldn't care less" about the committee chairmanships but added that it wanted to remind the majority that "it would be to its advantage to treat us with civility and dignity."

ARROYO retains public services

That is, he said, if the majority wanted "civil cooperation with the opposition" and smooth facilitation in the work of the Senate.

He also reiterated that Santiago was welcome to join the minority.

"Senator Santiago, by temperament and inclination, is more fit to be with the opposition than the majority," Pimentel said.

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New House power bloc gets 40% of committees

By Carlito Pablo

THE NEW power bloc in the House of Representatives consisting of the Kabalikat ng Malayang Pilipino (Kampi) and the Liberal Party (LP) is getting 40 percent of the committee chairmanships in the 13th Congress.

But interim Kampi president Rep. Ronaldo Puno (2nd dist., Antipolo City), who is reportedly being described in the corridors of Congress as the "shadow Speaker," isn't getting any of the posts.

"We'll just be on the sidelines," said Puno, one of the political strategists of President Macapagal-Arroyo during the May 10 elections.

When asked to comment on his informal appellation as the shadow Speaker, Puno laughed and said: "*Kalokohan yan* (That's rubbish)."

"It's a political intrigue coming from the other side," he said, without identifying the "other side."

Puno said it was normal for Kampi congressmen to regularly consult with him because of the ongoing reorganization in the House, particularly the distribution of committees.

"But when the work starts, these congressmen will develop their own momentum," he said. "I cannot dictate on them."

In a separate interview, Kampi spokesperson Rep. Anthony Miranda (4th dist., Isabela) said that Kampi and the LP would be dividing between the two parties the chairmanship of 26 of the 66 regular and special committees in the House.

Miranda said that Kampi would also get to name two of its members to the Commission on Appointments and one to the House of Representatives Electoral Tribunal.

Among the committees Kampi will get are two sensitive ones—national defense and public order.

In another interview, LP stalwart Rep. Abraham Mitra (2nd dist., Palawan) said Liberals would get, among others, the committees on public order, trade, cultural minorities, and ecology.

"The Liberal Party wants to ensure that it plays a vital role in the 13th Congress," Mitra said.

Earlier, Mitra had bewailed the "second-class treatment" the LP had gotten from Lakas in their alliance in the previous 12th Congress.

The LP recently entered into an alliance with Kampi after members of the former party expressed dissatisfaction with the terms of their coalition with the ruling Lakas-CMD party led by Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr.

Kampi and the LP, however, remain part of the dominant Rainbow 4 Coalition in the House which includes Lakas, the Nationalist People's Coalition, the Nacionalista Party and majority of the party-list representatives.

Before the opening of the 13th Congress, the Kampi-LP bloc claimed it had 108 members, or 10 members short of electing a new Speaker.

Mike A files 2 more libel cases

By Tarra V. Quismundo

A DAY before he and his wife were to mark their 36th wedding anniversary, First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo filed two new libel cases against his critics at the Manila City Prosecutor's Office yesterday.

Arroyo filed libel charges against Inq7.net columnist William Esposo and publisher Amado Macasaet and business editor Rosario Galang of the broadsheet Malaya.

The lawsuits were for P11 million each.

"He is not in this for the money. This is simply to vindicate his honor," said Arroyo's lawyer, Ruy Alberto Rondain.

Arroyo sued Esposo over his column High Ground that came out on July 5 with the title, "How do you solve a problem like Mike Arroyo?"

In the column, which was posted on Inq7.net, a news website of the Philippine Daily Inquirer and GMA Network, Esposo called Arroyo the "single biggest liability" and the "weakest link" in his wife President Macapagal-Arroyo's administration.

In Macasaet's case, his July 9 column "Business Circuit" that came out in Malaya under the title, "First Couple's Idea of Charity," appeared to Arroyo to be malicious since it allegedly painted his charity work as a false front.

"Mike Arroyo is trying to build a name for charity," wrote Macasaet. "Politicians are the most charitable people on this planet while they are campaigning. After they win, they become tight-fisted. And the money may not even be theirs."

Macasaet is also among the respondents in the five libel cases Arroyo filed in June against politicians, editors and reporters who had tagged him in election fraud and corruption.

ESTRADA

Erap needs Swiss trip for bad knee soon, says Loi

By Christine O. Avendaño

LAWYERS of Joseph Estrada plan to ask the Sandiganbayan to allow the deposed president to seek medical treatment in Switzerland for his bad knee, according to Estrada's wife, Sen. Luisa "Loi" Ejercito.

Commenting on her husband's current condition, Ejercito told Senate reporters yesterday that her husband was taking pain medication and was in immediate need for a knee operation.

"He's taking painkillers three times a day. He needs this operation as soon as possible," she said in Filipino.

She said her husband needs the operation now because he is getting on in years. Estrada is 67.

Since the former president has no visa to enter the United States where he had originally planned to have his knee operated, the senator said the family is eyeing to have the surgery done in Switzerland.

She said that Dr. Christopher Jordan, Estrada's doctor based in California, would escort her husband to Switzerland.

US-LED COALITION OF THE WILLING

Are we in, or are we out? Palace not sure

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

UNITED States Army trainer Sergeant First Class Tu Lam shouts instructions to Filipino soldiers during training inside a military camp in Zamboanga City Monday. Around 40 US Army trainers are here to train 120 Filipino soldiers in various maneuvers and tactics over the next six weeks to enhance Philippine military's capability to fight terrorism. REUTERS

ARE WE or aren't we?

Even Malacañang is finding it difficult to say if the Philippines is still a member of the United States-led Coalition of the Willing.

"We are an active member of the fight against terror," was all presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye would say when asked if the Philippines was still a coalition member despite its controversial withdrawal from Iraq last month to save the life of Filipino hostage Angelo de la Cruz.

Bunye also would not categorically confirm or deny a reported statement by Secretary of State Colin Powell that the US no longer considered the Philippines part of the international coalition that backed the war against Iraq.

Powell supposedly made the statement in a recent interview on an Arabic television network. Bunye saw no need for the Department of Foreign Affairs to verify the authenticity of Powell's statement.

"Well, we have been very categorical in our stand against terrorism and you will note that we have achieved significant gains, especially in the last few weeks, in the last few days, and we will continue to be an active nation fighting terrorism in this part of the world," was Bunye's reply.

He issued a statement saying the government's resolve to fight terrorism had not wavered despite the pullout from Iraq.

"Our commitment to the campaign against international terrorism is firm. The gains we continue to achieve in the anti-terrorism campaign is a result of the vigilance of Filipinos, our alliances with other nations and our strategic partnership with the United States," he said.

In a press briefing, Bunye said the government would continue to "cooperate with our neighbors regionally and internationally and, definitely, we expect to lick the problem of terrorism."

Asked if the fight would continue even if the Philippines was no longer a coalition member, Bunye said: "Our resolve against terrorism is very firm, we will work toward the elimination ... of the terrorist threat in our jurisdiction."

But he did not want to say the government could not care less about the US sentiment.

"That's putting words in my mouth but we are saying that we will fight terrorism the best way we can, the best way we know how."

Bunye also disagreed with the reported assessment by Philippine Permanent Representative to the United Nations Lauro Baja that the country's pullout from Iraq had negative repercussions on its standing with the US and other countries.

"I do not have that same impression. My understanding is that our relationship with our allies and our strategic partners will remain strong," he said.

Bunye expressed confidence the controversy would have no effect on the designation of the Philippines as a major non-Nato ally of the US.

President George W. Bush conferred the status on the Philippines as a goodwill gesture during Ms Arroyo's state visit to Washington in 2002. It supposedly gave the Philippines priority and greater access to US military aid.

Malacañang had acknowledged the withdrawal of the Philippine 51-man humanitarian contingent from Iraq one month before schedule had strained relations with the US.

Bunye said last week that it was time to move on and the government wanted to resume normal relations with the US as soon as possible.

But the government has not disclosed the specific steps it was taking to repair diplomatic relations.

On the contrary, Ms Arroyo has not appointed a new ambassador to Washington, after the departure of Ambassador Alberto del Rosario whose tour of duty ended last month.

Court junks media giant's TRO bid vs ex-employees

By Edson Castro Tandoc Jr.

THEY could heave a sigh of relief—for now.

The three former ABS-CBN employees facing suits from the media giant could continue working with ABC5 while their cases are being heard in court, a Quezon City judge ruled last week.

Regional Trial Court Branch 218 Judge Hilario Laqui dismissed ABS-CBN's petition for a temporary restraining order against former ABS-CBN employees Eduardo Lingao, Anne Francia Torres and Jade Joy Lim-Lopez.

The three used to work for the ABS-CBN program, "The Correspondents" until they resigned on April and moved to ABC5.

However, the court will continue to hear the P25-million suit ABS-CBN had filed against them.

ABS-CBN had said in their complaint that Lingao, Lopez and Torres caused the network "exemplary damages, loss of revenues, [and] loss of trade secrets," when they went to work for the rival channel.

In his decision dated July 28, Laqui said ABS-CBN "failed to convincingly address the urgency with which the issuance of a TRO should be founded."

He added that while the network claimed Lingao, Lopez and Torres would divulge trade secrets to ABC5, it had not proved that revelations had been made.

The Lopez-owned network had said that based on their contracts, Lingao, Lopez and Torres should not do anything "prejudicial to the interests of ABS-CBN" for a period of one year after leaving the company.

"What ABS-CBN is saying is that if we won't be journalists for ABS-CBN, we have no right to be journalists at all," Lingao said in a statement.

The three have filed a P2.5 million countersuit against their former employer for allegedly harassing them to quit their new jobs.

"All we want is for them to just leave us alone," Lopez also told the INQUIRER in a phone interview.

She added they were also wondering why ABS-CBN was going after them when many other ABS-CBN talents had also moved to ABC5.

NEWSBRIEFS

Sino drug dealer arrested

INTERIOR and Local Government Secretary Angelo Reyes yesterday announced the arrest of a Chinese drug dealer operating in northern Metro Manila.

Reyes identified the suspect as Yin Zhi Liang, alias Joseph Ong and Joseph Cheng. He said Yin, a native of Fujian, China, was arrested by agents of the Philippine National Police Anti-Illegal Drugs Special Operations Task Force led by director Edgardo Aglipay.

Two kilos of methamphetamine hydrochloride or shabu, $3,500, some Chinese currency and two cellular phones were seized from the suspects, Reyes said.

Aglipay, in a press conference, said Yin came in as a tourist last February and resided at 1 Yellow Bell, Araneta Village, Malabon. He said an unidentified caller tipped off his office about the suspect's illegal activities. *Nelson F. Flores*

2 cops face dismissal for extortion

TWO policemen who were arrested for extortion on Saturday inside the Taguig police station were recommended for summary dismissal from the service by Interior Secretary Angelo T. Reyes yesterday.

Reyes identified the policemen as SPO1 Johnny Galis, 45; and PO2 Rene Data, 30, both members of the Taguig police force. He said the two were caught while in the act of receiving P20,000 in P500 marked bills inside the police station.

He said three other policemen—Insp. Ricardo Luciano, SPO2 Benjamin Payumo and PO2 Badlis Asmad—are being sought to shed light on the matter.

The two policemen together with Ariel Trinidad and Rogelio Robello were arrested by member of the PNP's Anti-Illegal Drugs Special Operations Task Force after receiving marked money from complainants Rufino Santos Sr. and his son Rufino Jr.

PNP Deputy Director General and AIDSOTF chief Edgardo Aglipay said Santos Sr. was arrested by the suspects on trumped-up charges last Saturday. He said the suspects demanded P30,000 from the victim.

"The victim managed to reduce the amount to only P20,000," Aglipay said.

Aglipay said charges of robbery-extortion, violation of domicile, damage to property and resisting arrest were filed against the suspects. *Nelson Flores*

Drug tests for gov't workers

THE Dangerous Drugs Board is set to conduct drug tests on all government personnel nationwide.

Dr. Rommel Garcia, DDB Deputy Executive Director, said the move is part of the government's intensified campaign against illegal drugs. He said those who will be found positive of illegal drugs will be dismissed and rehabilitated.

Garcia said that the DDB expects the local government units to partially shoulder the expense of the drug testing which is "quite expensive." He said that the drug testing schedules won't be announced to protect the integrity of the process.

"The drug testing will come as a surprise," Garcia said.

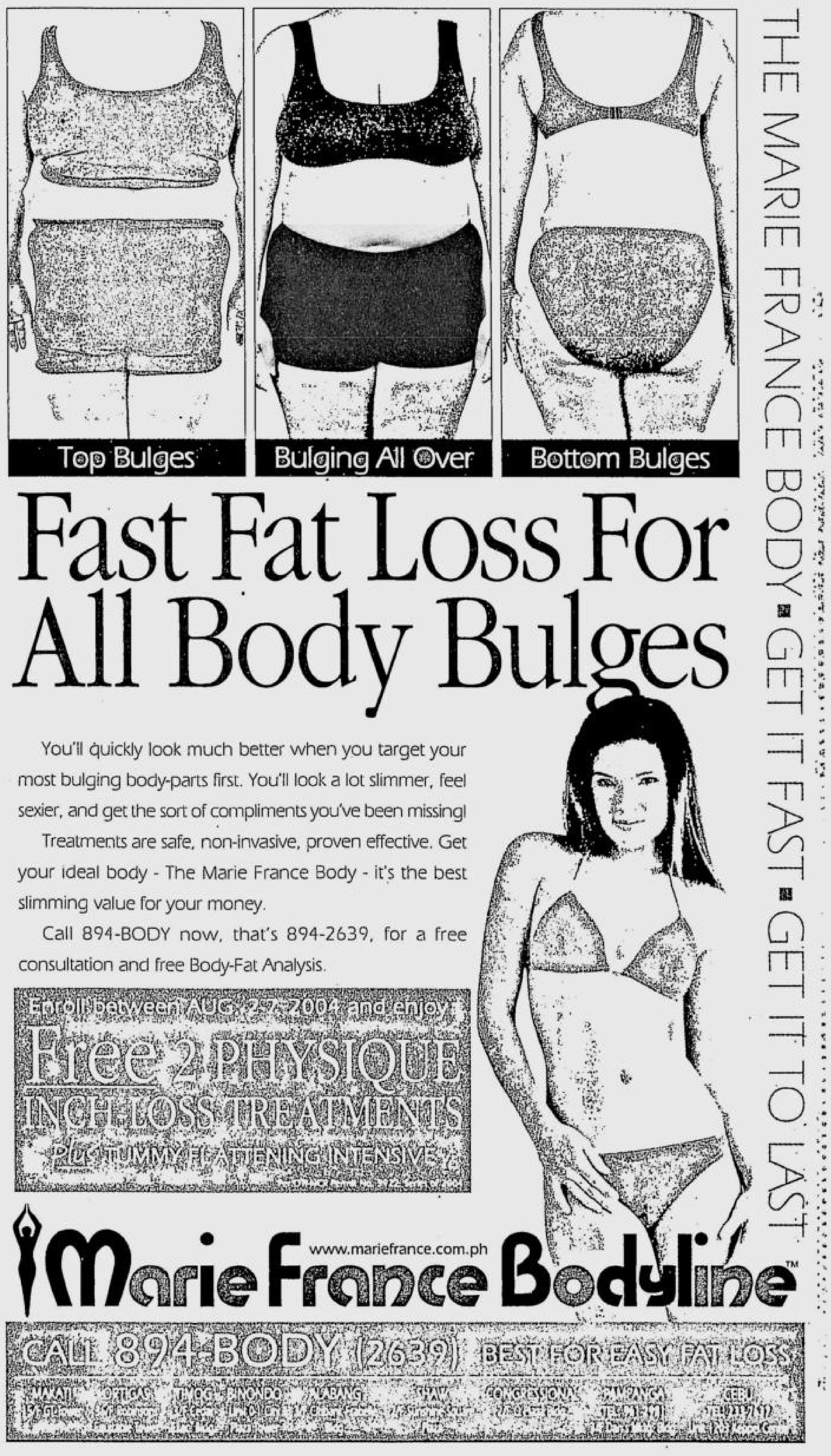
Meet set to discuss fight vs TB

THE country's largest anti-TB organization, the Philippine Coalition Against Tuberculosis or PhilCAT, will hold its annual convention on Aug. 25 to 27 at the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel. This year's theme, "TB Control—Breakthroughs, Best Practices, Forging Partnerships" will showcase the country's efforts to eliminate TB as well as develop the network of organizations to fight the disease from different fronts.

Speakers include the country's topmost pulmonary and infectious disease experts. Guest of honor will be Health Secretary Manual Dayrit.

Multi-awarded biophysicist Maria Freire, PhD. will talk on updates on global TB drug development. Dr. Lee Reichman, executive director, New Jersey Medical School National TB Center, and World Health Organization Medical Officer for the Philippines Dr. Michael Voniatis will speak on the latest updates in the global PPM-DOTS community.

For details, call 632 687-7135, fax 632 687-2195, or send email to philcatconvention@yahoo.com, or philcat@pacific.net.ph.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Iraq ban to cost gov't ₱5.7B

By Martin P. Marfil

THE GOVERNMENT stands to lose $102.48 million, or P5.7 billion, in potential remittances if the ban on the deployment of Filipino workers to Iraq—which is currently being reviewed—is not lifted.

The figure is based on the existing number of pending job offers and the minimum monthly basic salaries of the workers—at an average of $700 per worker—over a two-year period, which is the usual length of a foreign contract.

According to Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) data, there are 6,000 pending job orders for Iraq which have not been filled since the ban on the deployment of workers to that war-torn country was reimposed.

The ban on the deployment of workers to Iraq was first imposed in April when a Filipino truck driver was killed in an ambush. It was lifted on July 1 but was reimposed a few weeks later after another truck driver, Angelo de la Cruz, was abducted and threatened with beheading.

The ban, according to POEA Administrator Rosalinda Baldoz, will be reviewed by Department of Labor and Employment officials in consultation with Special Envoy to the Middle East Roy Cimatu.

"We've checked with (Cimatu) but he's still in the province. If he arrives today, we can discuss it," said Baldoz yesterday.

Baldoz said the "critical" factor in any decision on the Filipino workers' deployment to Iraq would be security.

This was echoed by Labor Undersecretary Danilo Cruz, head of the DOLE's employment cluster.

"More than the potential income, our priority is the safety of our workers. We will make our decision based not on possible income and remittances [but on] the information Cimatu will give us," Cruz told reporters.

Baldoz said that with the 6,000 pending job orders, the number of Filipino workers in Iraq could rise to 10,000 if the ban is lifted.

The number of Filipino workers currently employed in Iraq has remained at some 4,000.

In the first imposition of the ban, which lasted about two months, two foreign employers—Dyncorp International and Hyundai Engineering Construction Co.—withdrew their job orders while other firms that had sought Filipino employees recruited workers from India and Nepal.

Australia 'no friend'—Angara

By Christine O. Avendaño

QUESTION: When is a friend not a friend?

Answer: When it calls you a marshmallow and treats your fruits unkindly.

Sen. Edgardo Angara yesterday said that Australia "was no friend" of the Philippines following Canberra's severe criticism of Manila's decision to pull its 51-man humanitarian contingent out of Iraq last month.

Taking the Senate floor yesterday, Angara went further and denounced Australia for being an "unfair trader" to the Philippines.

He said that for the past 15 years, Australia had excluded Philippine fruits from its shores.

"We have been trying to sell our mangoes, bananas and pineapples to them and, somehow, for the past 15 years, they have been finding one pest after another [in the fruits]," Angara said.

He said that Australia continued to raise the pest issue even after Manila had demonstrated that its fruits were pest-free.

"Australia has been an unfair trader with the Philippines and their character just shows. If they were really our friends, why would they make a comment like that [marshmallow] about the Philippines?" he said.

Angara said he did not agree with the government's pullout of its troops from Iraq but he "would not condone or tolerate foreigners telling us that what we did was wrong, and in unparliamentary and vulgar terms."

Earlier, Angara told reporters that he would support calls to impose trade sanctions against Australia in retaliation for Foreign Minister Alexander Downer's calling the Philippines a "marshmallow" for its decision to pull its troops out of Baghdad to save the life of Filipino truck driver Angelo de la Cruz.

On a similar front, Sen. Manuel Villar Jr. said in a statement that Australia should stop issuing negative comments and instead "respect our decision on the pullout. It must learn to accept it and deal with it."

Mai Baranda; 48

MARIO "Mai" G. Baranda, founder and president of Proactive Center for Training, organizers of corporate and entrepreneurial training workshops, and managing director of Coverlines Ads, died Sunday. He was 48.

Baranda was formerly editor of the defunct World Executive Digest and a member of the mass communications faculties of Assumption College in Makati and Perpetual Help College in Las Piñas.

The youngest of nine children of the late public relations pioneer Carlos "Charlie" Baranda and Lumen Gentilezo, he is survived by siblings and in-laws Lynn and Lemmy Erba, Pamela Floresca, Manon and Andy Dizon, Carlos and Chit (deceased), Julio and Maria Fe, Alan (deceased) and Violy, Tony and Verna, and Roberto "Bong" and other relatives.

His remains lie at the Faith Chapel, Don Bosco Technical Institute, Pasay Rd., Makati City.

Interment will be on Aug. 5 after the 9 a.m. Mass at the Manila Memorial Park, Sucat Rd., Parañaque City.

Bukidnon lawmaker gets Yale fellowship

By Carlito Pablo

BUKIDNON Rep. Nereus Acosta has been awarded a Yale World Fellowship for 2004, making him the first Filipino to be accorded the honor by the prestigious Yale University in Connecticut, USA.

Each year, Yale "brings 16 to 18 emerging leaders of diverse backgrounds and nationalities ... to study critical issues facing the global community," according to a statement issued by Alex Lyda of the Yale World Fellows Program.

ACOSTA

Acosta, 38, a member of the Liberal Party, was the principal author of the landmark Clean Air Act of the Philippines of 1999.

One of the youngest members of the 13th Congress, Acosta holds a doctorate degree in political science from Hawaii's East West Center.

Acosta is also known for nonprofit advocacies like the replication of the Grameen Bank model of Bangladesh in Bukidnon.

Acosta's family was instrumental in setting up the Bukidnon Integrated Network of Home Industries Inc. (Binhi), which he previously described as a non-collateral bank for the poor.

Acosta earlier said that Binhi is already the biggest Grameen Bank replication in Mindanao, serving some 7,500 people in need of credit for livelihood programs.

Acosta won his third term as representative of the first district of Bukidnon in the May 10 elections.

An official Yale University statement quoted university president Richard Levin as saying that in just three years, the World Fellowship Program has assembled leaders from more than 40 countries.

"The university is sure to benefit immeasurably from the perspectives these leaders bring to campus, and from the relationships they help build between Yale and their home countries," Levin said.

Daniel Esty, a professor of environment law and policy at Yale, said that the program is "designed to give some of the most promising mid-career leaders in the world today a rare opportunity to learn from each other."

The program, which is a seminar on global issues, covers 15 weeks of intensive study between September and December.

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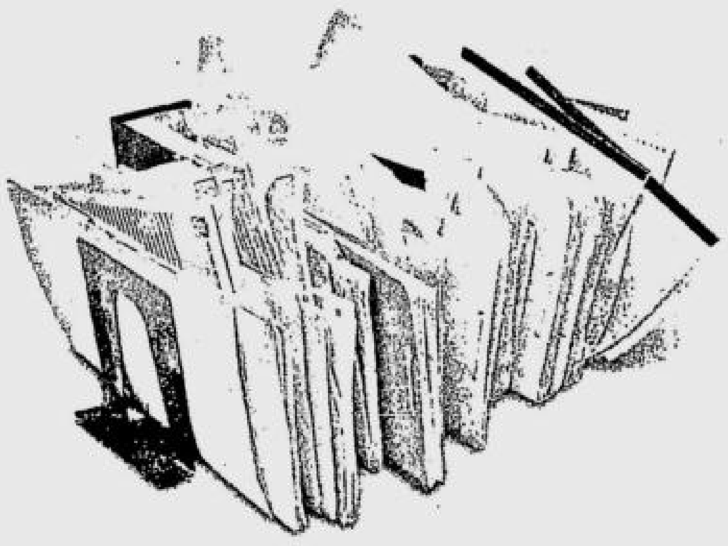

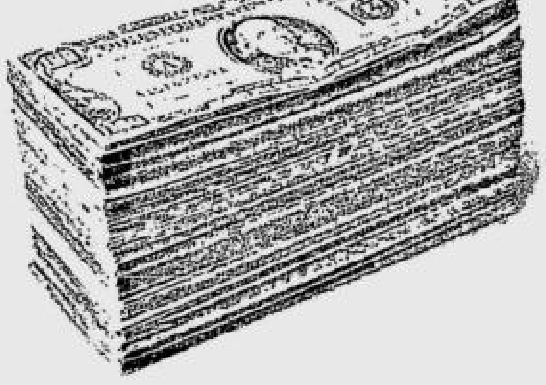

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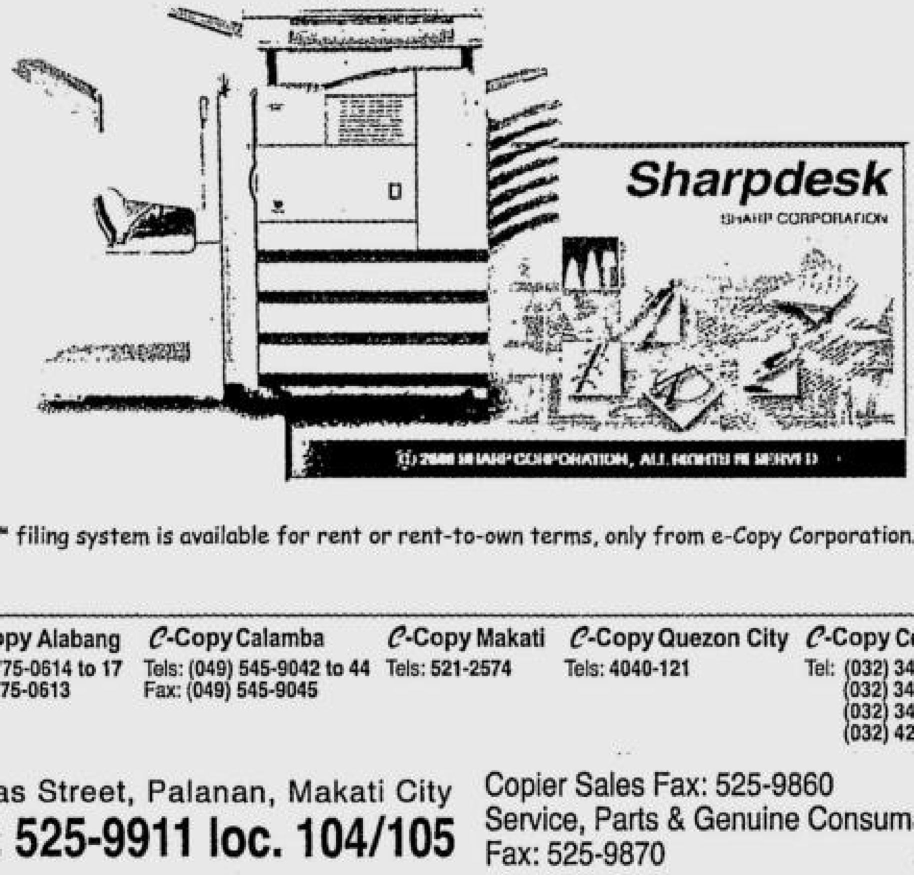

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Corrections

IN THE July 31 issue, an article in the Elan section—"Deconstructing Art, Rebuilding Friendship"—wrongly identified the actor who played the role of Yvan. The role was played by Jaime del Mundo, not Miguel Faustmann.

* * *

IN THE same issue, another Elan article—"Success is Simplicity"—misstated the location of the Ilog Maria Bee Farm in Cavite. The farm is situated at Km 47 of the Aguinaldo Highway in Silang—not Alfonso town.

* * *

IN YESTERDAY'S issue, a front-page article misstated the first name of the Laoag City radio commentator who was ambushed and killed in San Nicolas, Ilocos Norte, on Saturday. The correct name of the commentator is Roger—not Robert—Mariano.

* * *

Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors in writing to Gerry Lirio, city editor, Philippine Daily Inquirer, PDI Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Mascardo Street, Makati City; fax Nos. 897-4793/94; e-mail addresses:glirio@inquirer.com.ph and daydesk@inquirer.com.ph.

Complaints about lack of fairness or objectivity may be sent to Raul Palabrica, readers' advocate, the same address and fax numbers as those of the city editor, and e-mail address:rpalabrica@inquirer.com.ph.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Tuesday, August 3, 2004
18th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Jer 30:1-2, 12-15, 18-22
Gospel: Mt 14:22-36

After the crowds have eaten their fill, Jesus obliged his disciples to get into the boat and go ahead of him to the other side, while he sent the crowd away.

And having sent the people away, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. At nightfall, he was there alone. Meanwhile, the boat was very far from land, dangerously rocked by the waves for the wind was against it.

At daybreak, Jesus came to them walking on the lake. When they saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, thinking that it was a ghost. And they cried out in fear. But at once Jesus said to them, "Courage! Don't be afraid. It's me!" Peter answered, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you walking on the water."

Jesus said to him, "Come." And Peter got out of the boat, walking on the water to go to Jesus. But, in face of the strong wind, he was afraid and began to sink. So he cried out, "Lord, save me!" Jesus immediately stretched out his hand and took hold of him, saying, "Man of little faith, why did you doubt?"

As they got into the boat, the wind dropped. Then those in the boat bowed down before Jesus saying, "Truly, you are the Son of God!"

They came ashore at Gennesareth. The local people recognized Jesus and spread the news throughout the region. So they brought all the sick to him, begging him to let them touch just the fringe of his cloak. All who touched it became perfectly well.

Commentary

Here too, of course, everything echoes everything else. As God calms the sea (Ps 76:16), Jesus calms the storm and walks on the water. As God rescued his people by making "a path through the mighty waters" (Is 43:16), Jesus comes over the water to rescue a hesitant Peter and his terrified companions. In Isaiah, God said to a people of little faith, "It is I who say to you, 'Do not fear, I will help you'" (41:10,13); here Jesus says, "It is I; do not be afraid."

Today we have to chase down these references and echoes, but to the earliest Christians these were instantly self-evident. They had a whole symbolic world through which to interpret the actions of Jesus, and so they recognized him as "the one who was to come." Most of us today do not inhabit that symbolic world, nor even the symbolic world of our own cultures, but only that of Hollywood, football, the scandals in the newspapers, and advertisements… Through the print and electronic media we have easier access to the world's cultures (and to our own) than any previous generation had, but we seem to access it all only as information. It doesn't penetrate or change us.

Against this, we have the assurance that the word of God cannot return empty. "As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it" (Is 55:10,11).

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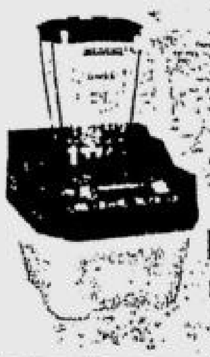
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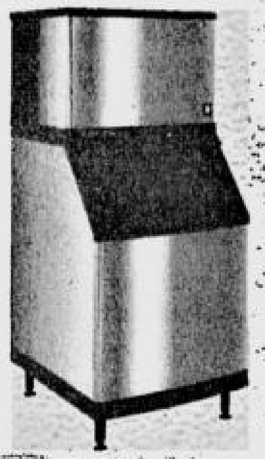
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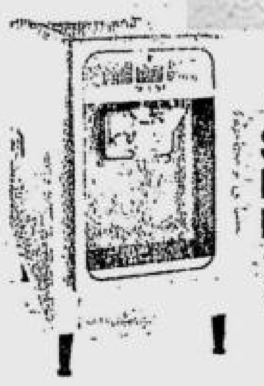
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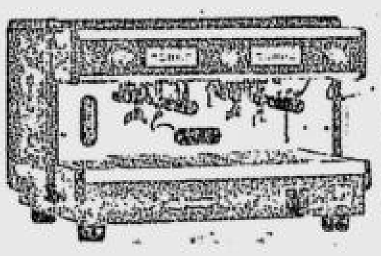
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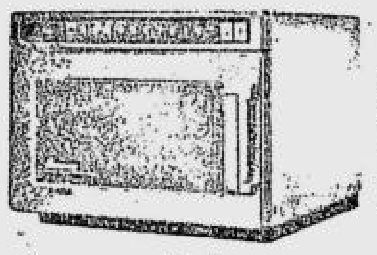
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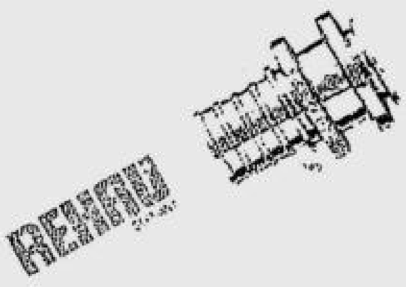

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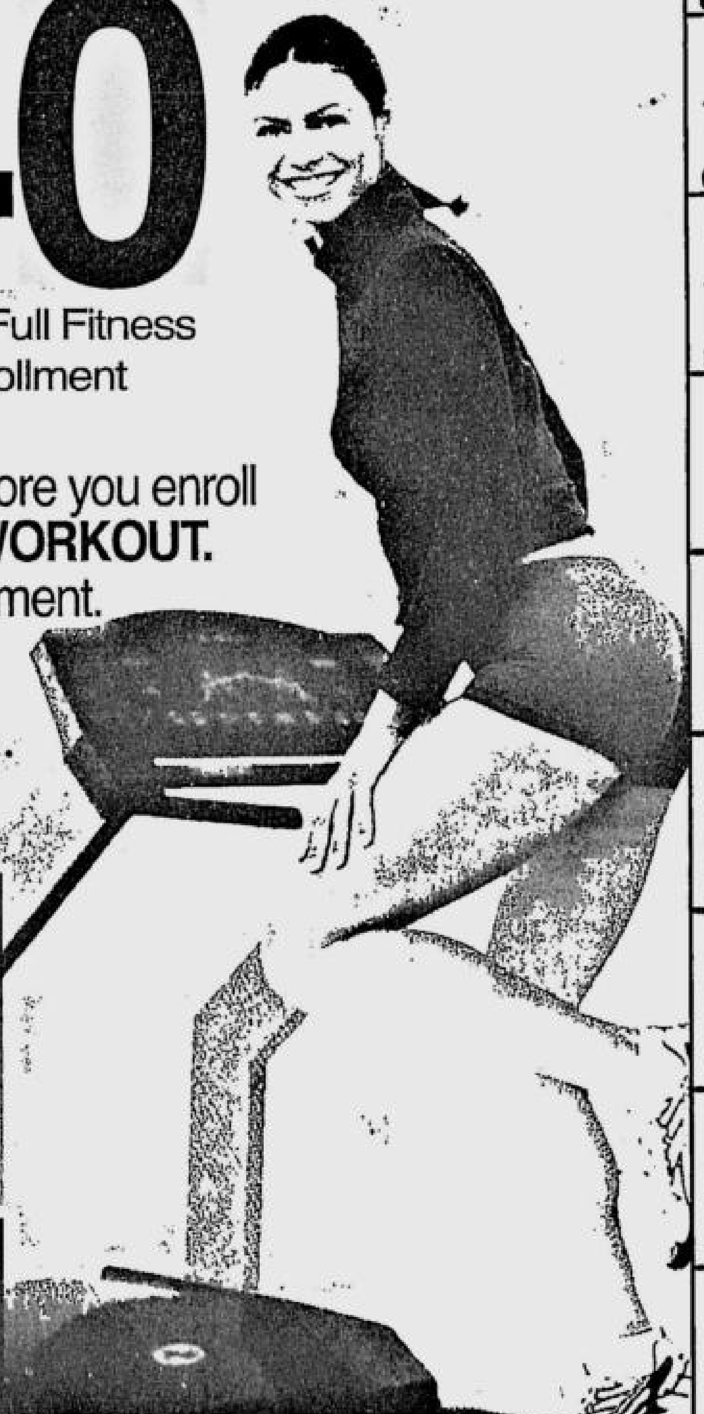

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Conjoined RP boys on brink of separate lives

From page A1

was "very far from a done deal. There's lots that could go wrong."

In previous operations, the boys' skull was opened, their separate-but-touching brains carefully pushed apart and most of their shared blood vessels cut and divided.

Dr. James Goodrich, the lead surgeon, said magnetic resonance imaging showed the boys now had nearly equal, thriving circulation systems. What had been dormant veins on Carl's side have plumped up and assumed the duties of veins on Clarence's side that had been doing the circulation work for both boys.

Alarmingly delicate

Like previous operations, the fourth one on Wednesday will be alarmingly delicate.

Goodrich and Staffenberg will cut through skin and bone to open a window on the brains and the surrounding blood vessels. The major vein the boys still share will be cut and divided.

The last area where the brains are touching—about an inch and a half across—will be teased apart while doctors keep a sharp eye out for any connecting veins.

"If you just say, 'We're done,' and yank them apart, you wind up with a lot of bleeding and all these strokes, which is an issue we've been trying so hard to avoid," Staffenberg said.

It's difficult work, even with the help of magnifiers. The surgeons have described the tiny veins as having "the consistency of wet toilet paper."

The team will check for excessive bleeding or swelling before deciding whether to continue with the separation. "There's always another day," Goodrich said.

Once the decision is made to go ahead, the last of the connecting skull bone, including a large portion that "flares out in the wrong direction," will be removed, Staffenberg said.

The boys' head-to-head tables can then be moved apart to give the doctors more room.

Brain membrane

Staffenberg will then have to reconstruct the dura mater, a membrane that covers the brain. Though the boys have separate brains, they shared the membrane, and extra material will be needed to cover both brains. It could come from the boys' midsections or a commercially available substitute.

"The dura is the layer that keeps the cerebral spinal fluid in around the brain," Staffenberg said. "You don't want that leaking."

The next step is to "wash everything out and then start closing the skin," Staffenberg said. He will leave the reconstruction of the skulls—a major project—for later.

"I had to be sure in designing (the procedure) that their hair was going to be growing in the right direction," Staffenberg said. "I didn't want them to have these big cowlicks."

For a finishing touch, Staffenberg said, "I made the suggestion that we put them both into Yankees caps. This is the Bronx." He wasn't sure the hospital would go for it, he said.

Arlene Aguirre brought her two boys to New York from the Philippines last September and lives with them at the Blythedale Children's Hospital in Valhalla between surgeries at the Children's Hospital at Montefiore.

She has chosen not to be in the operating room, but will get regular updates during the surgery.

Aguirre declined to be interviewed as the operation approached. "I am worried but I am hoping," she said last month.

Assessing surgery

Goodrich said the boys would have to be watched for months before the surgery could be fully assessed.

"We'll know a lot on Day One just by how the procedure goes," he explained. "If we get through this case without a lot of swelling, without a lot of bleeding, then I can make a very good prognostic outcome. Long-term, there's the danger of infection, meningitis, spinal fluid leaks."

Staffenberg said both boys would need a great deal more of the occupational and developmental therapy that they had been getting at Blythedale.

Goodrich said he had learned to "divorce myself from the personalities," but added, "There's no way to avoid getting caught up in Carl and Clarence's case and their mom. It's human nature."

Said Staffenberg: "I want to deliver for these little guys." *AP*

Past surgery results dismaying, says doc

NEW YORK—Conjoined twins, formerly called Siamese twins, occur once in approximately 200,000 live births, according to the Montefiore Medical Center.

Conjoined twins are formed when a fertilized egg begins to divide into twins, but the division is not completed.

Craniopagus twins, joined at the head like Carl and Clarence Aguirre, make up just 2 percent of conjoined twins.

Dr. James Goodrich, leader of the Montefiore team planning to separate the Aguirre boys on Wednesday, said that until recently the results of separation surgery in cases like theirs had been "dismaying."

"Historically, both children died," he said. "Then we got to the point where one child lived and the other child was sacrificed. Within the last 10 years we've been able to get both children to survive, and that was considered a wonderful outcome. But the best-case scenario was one child doing OK and the other is devastated."

According to Goodrich, there have been three recent cases in which the separation was done gradually, as it is being done with the Aguirre twins.

All six twins have survived, but never have both twins come through without significant problems, he said.

Goodrich said he knew of no case where twins connected like Carl and Clarence had emerged into "viable, independent lives," the stated goal in the Aguirre case. *AP*

Abandoned fetus raises population policy question

From page A1

Robert Reyes.

The fetus, believed to be "6 to 7 months old," was inside a blue paper shopping bag left behind by a young woman who had entered the church at around 6:45 a.m., Reyes told the INQUIRER, quoting an eyewitness.

Reyes said the woman was described as in her early 20's and wearing a white T-shirt and shorts. She was first spotted by the parish cook Linda Senar, the priest added. Senar, on her way out to buy something, saw the woman "kneel" in one of the pews, placing the bag on the floor in front of her.

Returning about 30 minutes later, Senar then saw other churchgoers in a "commotion" and probing the bag on the floor, Reyes said. The mysterious woman had gone.

To the "running priest," a staunch pro-life advocate, the disturbing incident, while no longer unusual, illustrated the kind of mind-set that could be spawned by population control measures that "subordinate life under the seemingly higher values of economics."

Reyes warned that more "unwanted" babies would be abandoned by "increasingly confused, misguided and deeply troubled women [because of] an exaggerated fear motivated purely by economic factors."

He later said in a statement: "Today we debate the 'two-child policy.' Couldn't this be a message and challenge of this abandoned baby in Project 4?"

The controversial House bill, recently filed by Albay Rep. Edcel Lagman, offers "incentives" to couples who would have two children or less.

Titled Reproductive Health Act of 2004, the proposed measure seeks to arrest the country's high birth rate, considered a major impediment to economic growth. The Philippine population is currently pegged at 84 million and growing at a rate of 2.36 percent a year.

"Before we pursue the issue any further, let us pause and consider certain glaring realities," Reyes exhorted. "Many unprepared and so-called unwanted pregnancies happen among poor women.

REYES

He insisted that many other sectors were to blame for the problem, for instance: "How about the media, especially entertainment [media] which, in every graphic or subtle way, sell sex and use it to sell other products?"

The fetus in the church was a "prematurely born baby—he's very thin, but he might have survived"—Reyes said, citing the examination conducted by PO3 Juan Mortel, responding police officer from Camp Karingal. Quoting the officer, the priest added: "The child surely must have been born alive."

Reyes doubted that the woman who left the bag with the fetus was the mother. "The baby was still warm," he explained. "He must have been born not too long ago. And the mother is probably going through the pangs of guilt."

Reached by the INQUIRER later in the day, the priest said he "prayed over" and "blessed" the fetus before it was brought to the Holy Angels Funeral Homes in San Mateo, Rizal.

Standing as "godparents" were village chair Andy Abundo of Barangay Marilag, and Senar, the cook, who "wished the [abandoned] child had just been given to her."

At Abundo's suggestion, Reyes, said, "we named the baby Angelo."

'Quick fix'

The proposed policy is drawing strong objections from Church leaders, too.

Lagman's bill has triggered proposals to enforce a five-year moratorium on child-bearing and calls for the use of contraceptives.

Archbishop Oscar V. Cruz yesterday branded these as "quick-fix reactions."

The outspoken archbishop of Lingayen-Dagupan said in a statement: "Population is once again considered as the culprit [that causes] the social ills in the country. Children are considered [mere] mouths to feed, bodies to clothe and to house. Behold the quick-fix response: Depopulate!"

He said the problem was that while the targets of "these palliatives" were the unborn, the proponents "have already been born."

"Those who want to deny life to others are already counted among the living. Those who do not want babies were once babies themselves," Cruz pointed out.

Bishop Rolando Tirona of Infanta, Quezon, said the government should not dictate but give parents a free hand to determine the number of children they would have.

He told reporters: "Other than [telling them] 'Do not go beyond two,' parents should be taught how to be caring and responsible. If you give numbers, you limit them. It's better to emphasize ideals, principles and let them decide."

Tirona, chair of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines' youth commission, spoke at the launching of "Ka-Lakbay," a directory for the Catholic Youth Ministry in the Philippines, at the San Carlos Seminary along Edsa in Makati City yesterday afternoon.

The two prelates reiterated the Church's stand, which advocates natural methods of contraception.

Cruz warned: "Violate nature and nature fights back."

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3 colonels linked to Poe groups cleared

By Alcuin Papa

THREE colonels accused of recruiting military reservists for mass action in support of then opposition presidential candidate Fernando Poe Jr. last February have been exonerated by the military leadership.

The three are Col. Ernie Amboy, who is retiring today after reaching the mandatory retirement age of 56, Lieutenant Colonels Nelson Eleazar and Eduardo de Castro, all assigned with the Army's Reserve Command.

Army spokesperson Lt. Col. Buenaventura Pascual said the three were cleared by the Army's Inspector General "of any charge in connection with any recruitment for destabilization or meeting with officials who have linkages with FPJ supporters."

In fact, Amboy was given a testimonial parade by the Army leadership on Friday along with other Army generals who were due to retire from the service.

"With the Inspector General's report, the doubts on him were already cleared. He is retiring from the service with an established loyalty to the service," Pascual said.

He explained that the Army's Inspector General found no evidence substantial enough to indict the three officers for any administrative or criminal case. He said Army investigators found out that the allegations against the three were based on "false reports."

Pascual also said it was not true that the three met with former Army chief Lt. Gen. Jaime delos Santos sometime in December of last year. Delos Santos is part of a group of retired generals who supported Poe's presidential bid.

Earlier, the military accused the three of recruiting military reservists for mass actions in support of Poe, the standard-bearer of the opposition Koalisyon ng Nagkakaisang Pilipino, if he is cheated by the administration in the May 10 presidential elections.

RP airports step up security for 'swallowed explosives'

AVIATION authorities said yesterday they were stepping up screening procedures at Philippine airports for terrorists who could be trying to board planes after swallowing explosives to avoid detection.

They said the safety measures were put in place to prevent a repeat of the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks in the United States, when hijacked planes were flown into the World Trade Center towers and the Pentagon.

"Methods involving the use of liquid explosives and simple timing devices as used by the terrorists operating out of the Philippines are indicative of the variety of tactics that may develop," said a security directive at Manila airport that was made available to the AFP.

"The possibility of terrorists, or persons with criminal or other motivation, intent on attacking aviation, carrying explosives internally must also be considered," it added.

The memorandum suggested that militants could use methods "similar to the technologies used by drug couriers." Drug carriers have been known to swallow or even surgically implant packets of narcotics in their bodies or the bodies of their pets to avoid detection at airport. Aviation authorities have recently stepped up security checks, including X-rays and body searches. Bomb-sniffing dogs have also been dispatched.

Until Manila caved in to Islamic militants' demands and pulled out its troops in Iraq last month, the United States had considered the Philippines a key ally in the war on terrorism.

Washington has also expressed concern over training sites allegedly maintained by the Jemaah Islamiyah militant group on the rebellion-torn southern Philippine island of Mindanao.

The two countries say the group is a Southeast Asian proxy of the Al-Qaida network behind the Sept. 11 attacks in the United States.

AFP

'Soldiers' Mall' set to open soon in Camp Aguinaldo

By Alcuin Papa

A SHOPPING mall is set to open right inside Camp Aguinaldo, the Armed Forces of the Philippines' headquarters in Quezon City, after authorities decided to close concessionaire stalls inside the military camp.

Yesterday, camp authorities closed down the old concessionaire stalls inside the camp to make way for the construction of a "Soldiers' Mall." A total of 45 stores were closed down.

According to the AFP's Public Information Office, the camp's management committee sent "Notices to Vacate" to the stalls occupants as early as 2000. They said there was a need "to modernize the concessionaire services, regulate space allocations for tenants, maximize the benefits that may be generated from concessionaire services, and enforce security and sanitation in the area."

The incumbent concessionaire tenants were also given priority for application for new stalls at the Soldiers' Mall.

The mall was part of Camp Aguinaldo's Master Development Plan of 2000 embodied in the AFP Modernization Program. At the site of the old concessionaire stalls, new barracks for enlisted personnel will be built.

Camp authorities, according to the PIO, also belied accusations that the concessionaire's contracts were violated, saying no contract was in effect as early as 2000.

The concessionaires have petitioned a court to issue a temporary restraining order to stop their ejection but they were thrice denied for failure to present a valid contract as proof of their legal occupancy of the stalls.

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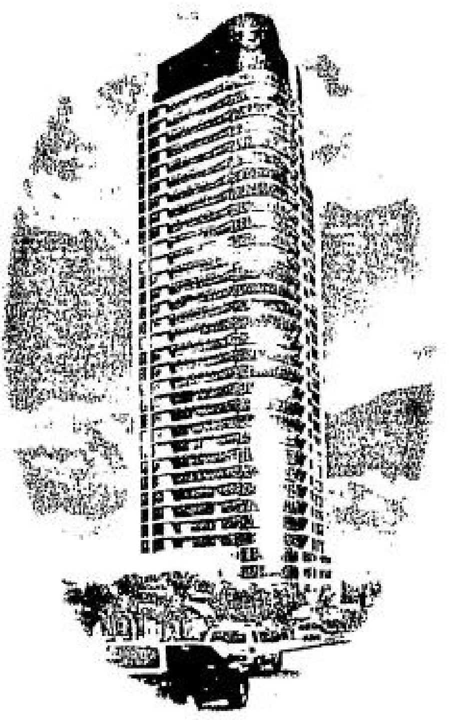

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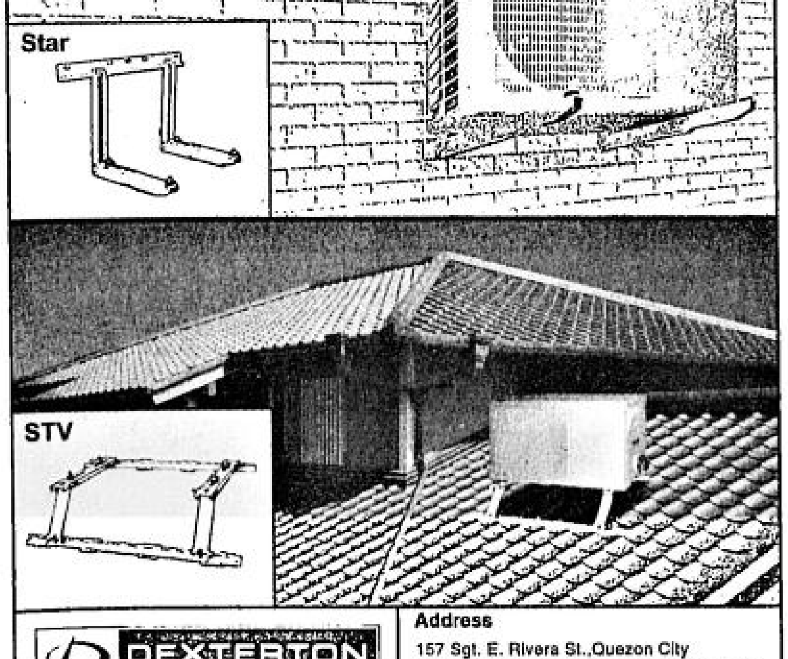

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The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

5 churches in Iraq bombed; 15 killed

BAGHDAD/MOSUL—Car bombs exploded outside at least five Christian churches in Iraq on Sunday, killing more than a dozen people and wounding many more in an apparently coordinated attack timed to coincide with evening prayers.

"We are expecting a huge number of casualties," an interior ministry source said, saying there had been four blasts at churches in Baghdad and two in the northern city of Mosul.

Police in Mosul said they knew of just one church attack there.

Separate violence beginning the night before killed 24, including an American soldier, and wounded 101. The toll included a suicide car bombing outside a Mosul police station Sunday that killed five people and wounded 53, and clashes in Fallujah between US troops and insurgents that killed 12 Iraqis and wounded 39 others.

The Vatican condemned the blasts—the first attacks on churches during the 15-month insurgency—echoing concerns among Iraqis that they aimed to inflame religious tensions.

In the deadliest attack, a suicide car bomber drove into the car park of a Chaldean church in southern Baghdad before detonating his vehicle, killing at least 12 people as worshippers left the building, witnesses said.

The US military has warned that guerrillas opposed to the presence of more 160,000 foreign troops may try to deepen divisions between the country's diverse religious communities in their campaign to destabilize Iraq.

"It is terrible and worrying because it is the first time that Christian churches are being targeted in Iraq," said Vatican deputy spokesperson Father Ciro Benedettini.

A US military spokesperson said three of the four attacks in Baghdad were known to be suicide car bombings.

The wave of explosions—at least four of them car bombings—began after 6 p.m. Sunday as parishioners gathered inside their neighborhood churches. The blasts shattered stained-glass windows and sent churchgoers running into the streets, screaming and clutching their bleeding heads.

An explosion at the Armenian church in Baghdad shattered stained glass windows and hurled chunks of hot metal. Another bomb exploded 15 minutes later at a nearby Assyrian church.

"Worshippers were inside the church and during the service a bomb went off," said Shakib Moussa Jibrail, a Christian.

An ambulance driver said that two people were killed in the explosion at the Assyrian church and several wounded.

US Col. Mike Murray of the 1st Cavalry Division said at least 50 people had been wounded at the church, some seriously.

"Those are terrorist acts against the Iraqi people and against Iraq, and we're going to finish them (the terrorists)," Interior Minister Falah al-Naqib told reporters at the church.

In Mosul, officials said at least one person was killed in a blast at a church and 15 wounded. The US military said the attackers fired a rocket at the Mar Polis Catholic Church before detonating a car bomb and put the toll from the attack at one dead and seven wounded.

There are about 800,000 Christians in Iraq, most of them in Baghdad. Several recent attacks have targeted alcohol sellers throughout Iraq, most of whom are Christians of either the Assyrian, Chaldean or Armenian denominations.

Christians account for about three percent of the population of Iraq, where attempts to provoke conflict have mainly focused on Sunni Muslims and members of the Shiite Muslim majority, who were oppressed by ousted dictator Saddam Hussein. *Reuters, AP*

KUSUM, the wife of Antaryami, an Indian held hostage in Iraq, along with her daughter Sukhdeep, celebrate after hearing the news of Antaryami's release, Aug 1. AP

Confusion over 7 hostages as Kenya reports release

NAIROBI—Kenya said Sunday that seven truck drivers, including three Kenyans, held in Iraq had been released and were at the Egyptian Embassy, but the statement was immediately denied by an Egyptian official and by the company that employs them.

"I am pleased to announce that the three Kenyans, together with four others from other countries, have this afternoon been released," Kenyan Foreign Minister Chirau Ali Mwakwere told a press conference in Nairobi.

"They are right now in Baghdad in the safe custody of the Egyptian Embassy and they will in the next few hours be taken to Kuwait, where they will be received by our ambassador to Saudi Arabia and his team that is already there," he added.

"They are in very good health," Mwakwere added.

"This is a great achievement for the country... This is diplomacy at its best," he said, adding: "We worked day and night to ensure that we succeeded eventually in bringing back home our brothers, who were held in Iraq."

But the Kuwaiti company that employs the truck drivers said the men had not been released yet.

"They have not been released. We'd be the first to know" if they were, Rana Abu Zaina, spokesperson for the Kuwait and Gulf Link Co., said.

An Egyptian official also denied that any hostages were safely inside his country's embassy in Baghdad. *AFP*

IN PROTEST OF THE CONSUMER AND OIL PRICE WATCII (COPW) STATEMENTS ON PETROLEUM PRICES

The Consumer and Oil Price Watch (COPW) had issued various statements that we deem misleading, and had raised false expectations on the price movement of petroleum products.

The COPW had reported that petroleum prices had gone down, as in the case of diesel, from $ 44.62 / bbl in May '04 to $ 42.842 / bbl in June '04, for which a rollback in pump prices should have been effected.

What the COPW failed to appreciate was the substantial under-recovery of P 1.741 / liter as in the case of diesel that we, the independent oil players, had been incurring up to that period. Diesel prices in the world market had risen to 215 % of what it was in January, 2002; The peso had depreciated 9 %; while our Wholesale Posted Prices (WPP) had increased only by 158% for the same period. The magnitude of the sacrifice made by the independent oil companies is very clear and beyond question.

With the average MOPS for July '04 deteriorating to $ 45 / bbl, this running under-recovery ballooned to P 2.52 / liter. On July 31, 2004, MOPS price for diesel was being quoted at $ 49.20 / bbl. If this level persists against the token increase of only 50 centavos we made on the pump prices today, our under-recovery shall hit P 3.50 / liter.

THE FACT IS : Recognizing the plight of our consumers which runs the whole gamut of our economy, from factories and industrial establishments to the ordinary household, the independent oil companies have consistently sacrificed and cushioned the impact of the huge and unabated rise in the cost of world oil prices, even to the detriment of their own viability.

THE FACT IS : The independent oil companies need to survive. Our resources are severely strained, and we have to recover our losses. Amidst the raging competition and the continuing volatility of world oil prices, the independent oil companies continues a very delicate task of maintaining its business viability, while keeping a tight rein on prices, as it is fully cognizant of its effect on the economy and the lives of our people.

THE FACT IS : The oil industry is deregulated. In this setting, oil companies are engaged in vigorous and healthy competition, as envisioned in the Downstream Oil Deregulation Law. Prices are set by the individual companies on the basis of their costs, their business strategies, and their ability to meet competition.

IN THIS VERY DIFFICULT PERIOD WHEN WE, THE INDEPENDENT OIL COMPANIES, ARE WALKING A TIGHT ROPE - ON ONE HAND, ABSORBING THE IMPACT FOR THE CONSUMERS OF UNABATED WORLD MARKET PRICES; WHILE ON THE OTHER HAND, TRYING TO MAKE GRADUAL PRICE RECOVERIES TO PRESERVE OUR VIABILITY – THE LAST THING WE NEED IS AN OUTSIDE GROUP, SUCH AS COPW WHO EVIDENTLY NEITHER FULLY UNDERSTANDS, APPRECIATES, NOR IS CONCERNED WITH OUR INDUSTRY PROBLEMS. WHAT COPW IS UNWITTINGLY CREATING IS AN ATMOSPHERE OF CONFUSION AND DISTRUST, EVEN FANNING RESENTMENT OF THE CONSUMERS FOR THE INDUSTRY.

If, the oil companies came out with statements on another industry, and start prognosticating on what prices would be and worse, what it ought to be, and if we presumptuously try to get involved in that industries' costings and margins – we would not be credible and we would be doing the economy and the players of that industry great damage.

WE ARE THEREFORE APPEALING TO THE CONSUMER AND OIL PRICE WATCII (COPW) TO BE MORE CIRCUMSPECT AND PRUDENT IN THEIR PRONOUNCEMENTS, ON MATTER OF PETROLEUM PRICES.

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Sudan assails UN's 30-day deadline

KHARTOUM—The Sudanese Cabinet condemned on Sunday the 30-day deadline for action on Darfur set by the UN Security Council, but said it would implement a 90-day program agreed earlier with UN Secretary General Kofi Annan.

The Security Council, in a resolution passed on Friday, demanded the Sudanese government take action within 30 days to disarm the Arab militias known as the Janjaweed, blamed for creating a humanitarian crisis in the western region.

If Sudan fails to satisfy the council, the United Nations said it intends to consider economic and diplomatic sanctions.

Sudan has given a mixed response to the resolution and the Cabinet met on Sunday to take a formal position.

"The council of ministers condemned the time period and views it to be illogical and difficult to implement, especially since the agreement we reached with the United Nations gave a 90-day implementation period," Sudanese Foreign Minister Mustafa Osman Ismail told reporters after the meeting.

"Sudan will commit to implement the agreement that it signed on July 3 with Kofi Annan and will commit to the joint implementation mechanism which was set up to monitor this agreement," the minister added.

The agreement with Annan included a Sudanese government commitment to disarm the Janjaweed militias and accept human rights monitors in Darfur, where conflict has displaced more than 1 million people, but it allowed Sudan more time.

Ismail said UN and Sudanese officials would meet on Monday.

An assistant administrator with the US Agency for International Development, Roger Winter, said in addition to the 30,000 people who have been killed in violence in Darfur, as many as 50,000 more may have died from hunger and disease.

"That number will start to jet up a good bit over the next few months and then it will start to tail off because a lot of the most vulnerable people... will have died by then," he said last week in Washington after returning from Sudan. *Reuters*

Diana fountain bugged by bad luck, poor plans

LONDON—It was meant to be the perfect tribute to the "people's princess"—a pool of water designed for children to frolic in, rather than a stark stone obelisk to be stared at.

But the hopes behind the Princess Diana Memorial Fountain in London's Hyde Park have been thwarted by a mixture of bad luck and apparent poor planning.

On Sunday, the circular moat lay drained of water behind a two-meter high link fence to keep people out.

"It's disappointing. We came to the park especially to see it and it's just a dry stone circle," said Australian tourist Ruth Petersen, 26.

The 3.6 million pound ($6.5 million) fountain, opened in a grand ceremony by Queen Elizabeth II less than a month ago, was closed indefinitely after three people, including a child, slipped and injured themselves while wading in it.

Environmental experts blamed the designers, claiming it should have been obvious that a granite moat combined with flowing fresh water would be a breeding ground for slippery algae.

Culture Minister Tessa Jowell criticized some of the visitors to the memorial for dropping litter, including diapers, into the fountain and allowing their dogs into the water.

Jowell said that the Royal Parks agency, which manages Hyde Park, is working to rectify the problems but future visitors will have to play their part.

"People have got to be responsible in the way they let their children play in the fountain," she told the Sunday Telegraph newspaper.

"The critical issue is that this is a memorial. I don't think any responsible member of the public would want to see people allowing their dogs in it," she added.

The ring of water, designed by American Kathryn Gustafson, was chosen ahead of 57 other entries as the permanent memorial for Diana in the capital. *AP*

DEADLY BLAZE

A burn victim is carried out by firefighters during a supermarket fire on the outskirts of Paraguay's capital Asuncion killing nearly 300 people. *(Story on Page A9)* REUTERS

Envoy: No fallout in UN from RP decision

NEW YORK—The membership and participation of the Philippines in the United Nations Security Council remains unaffected by the recent drama created by the Angelo de la Cruz issue.

This was reported by Ambassador Lauro L. Baja Jr., Philippine Permanent Representative to the United Nations, to the Department of Foreign Affairs in Manila.

Baja reported that no member-state of the UN, in particular the Security Council, even brought up the subject, much less criticize the Philippine decision to save the life of De la Cruz by advancing by a few weeks the scheduled pullout of the Philippine Humanitarian Contingent in Iraq.

"This is because in the multilateral fora, the Philippines, through the President, has established its credentials as a leader in the fight against terrorism, in the national, regional and international arena," Baja said.

Taking a cue from the policy pronouncements of President Macapagal-Arroyo, Baja said the Philippines crafted the Asean Declaration Against Terrorism and the Trilateral Agreement on the Exchange of Information and Establishment of Communication Procedure, immediately after the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks in the United States.

"We are also active in the Counter Terrorism Committee and the Sanctions Committee against al-Qaida and Taliban in the Security Council; we co-sponsored the Security Council resolution against the proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction to non-state sectors and we ratified the UN conventions Against Terrorism and related issues," Baja said.

He said there was no need to keep on criticizing the Philippine action on the De la Cruz case. "No leader abandons his or her men," the ambassador said. "If these critics look at the bigger picture, they will realize that we have not departed from our policy against terror nor wavered in our efforts to help Iraq," Baja said.

Nearly 300 killed in Paraguay fire

ASUNCION—Nearly 300 people were killed and hundreds more injured when a deadly fire raced through a shopping center on the outskirts of the Paraguayan capital, police said early Monday.

The toll of the Sunday blaze was especially high because shopping center security personnel locked the main doors to prevent customers from fleeing without first paying.

Firefighters believe the fire was ignited by a spark hitting an industrial-sized propane gas tank in the food court.

National police spokesperson Santiago Velazco said early Monday that at least 296 people were killed, and more than 300 were injured.

"It is possible that there are more bodies," Velazco said. "We are still removing bodies, though in a cautious, slow manner," he said, referring to fears that the whole building may collapse due to structural damage.

The blaze consumed a significant part of a supermarket within the shopping complex, which also houses offices and a parking garage.

Witnesses said that in the chaos that ensued they heard several explosions. Officials said the fire had likely been sparked by gas canisters that subsequently ignited.

Prosecutor Edgar Sanchez, in charge of investigating the blaze, told reporters that shopping center owner Juan Pio Paiva will be charged with homicide for blocking the doors. Paiva surrendered to the authorities, but denied ordering workers to close the shopping center doors.

One survivor, Rosa Resquin, said she heard someone shouting "close them, close them!" and "no one gets out of here without paying."

"When they arrived, the police and firemen opened the doors, but it was already too late," she told reporters.

Patricia Benitez, 17, who was being treated at a hospital for second-degree burns, said, "they closed the door in our face."

"(People) broke the exit door from outside and then we were able to get out," Benitez said.

"Most people died of smoke inhalation. Burns might have occurred later," said volunteer firefighters Captain Hugo Onieva. "If they had let them out it wouldn't have happened." *AFP*

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NORTHERN ISLANDS CO., INC.

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

This is to notify the public (depositary banks, dealers, clients and suppliers) of the current composition of the Board of Directors and the present corporate officers of Northern Islands Co., Inc. (NICI).

On 16 July 2004, the Court of Appeals, in CA SP No. 85069, entitled *Northern Islands Co., Inc., et al. vs. Hon. Judge Artemio S. Tipon, Presiding Judge, RTC, Branch 46, Manila, et al.*, issued a Temporary Restraining Order (TRO), the dispositive portion of which reads:

> "WHEREFORE, a Temporary Restraining Order is hereby issued to be effective upon service and for a period of SIXTY (60) DAYS, unless sooner lifted, ordering the public respondents and all those acting for or through them, to cease and desist from enforcing, maintaining or otherwise giving effect to their challenged Orders dated June 22, 2004 (Annex "B" of the petition, p. 36. rollo) and July 12, 2004 (Annex "A" of the petition, p. 34, rollo) issued in Civil Case No. 04-109444, subject of this petition." (emphasis ours)

By restraining the effectivity of the 22 June 2004 Order of the RTC, the Court of Appeals stopped the transfer of the Civil Case No. 04-109444, entitled *Lincoln Continental Development Co., Inc. vs. Northern Islands Co., Inc., et al.* pending with the Regional Trial Court of Manila, Branch 46, from Judge Antonio Eugenio, Jr., to Judge Artemio S. Tipon.

By restraining the effectivity of the 12 July 2004 Order of the RTC, the Court of Appeals stopped Judge Tipon from hearing the application for TRO of Lincoln Continental Development Co., Inc.

In the meantime, on 15 July 2004, Judge Tipon issued a TRO purporting to restrain the following directors and corporate officers from discharging the duties of their respective positions:

Simny G. Guy - President, Chairman and CEO/director/authorized bank signatory
Grace G. Cheu - Vice-President - Finance/director/authorized bank signatory
Geraldine G.Guy - General Manager/director/authorized bank signatory
Gladys G. Yao - Corporate Secretary/director

Judge Tipon's TRO was, however, superseded by the Court of Appeals TRO of 16 July 2004.

Accordingly, ONLY the acts and transactions of the above-named directors and corporate officers will be legally recognized by NICI.

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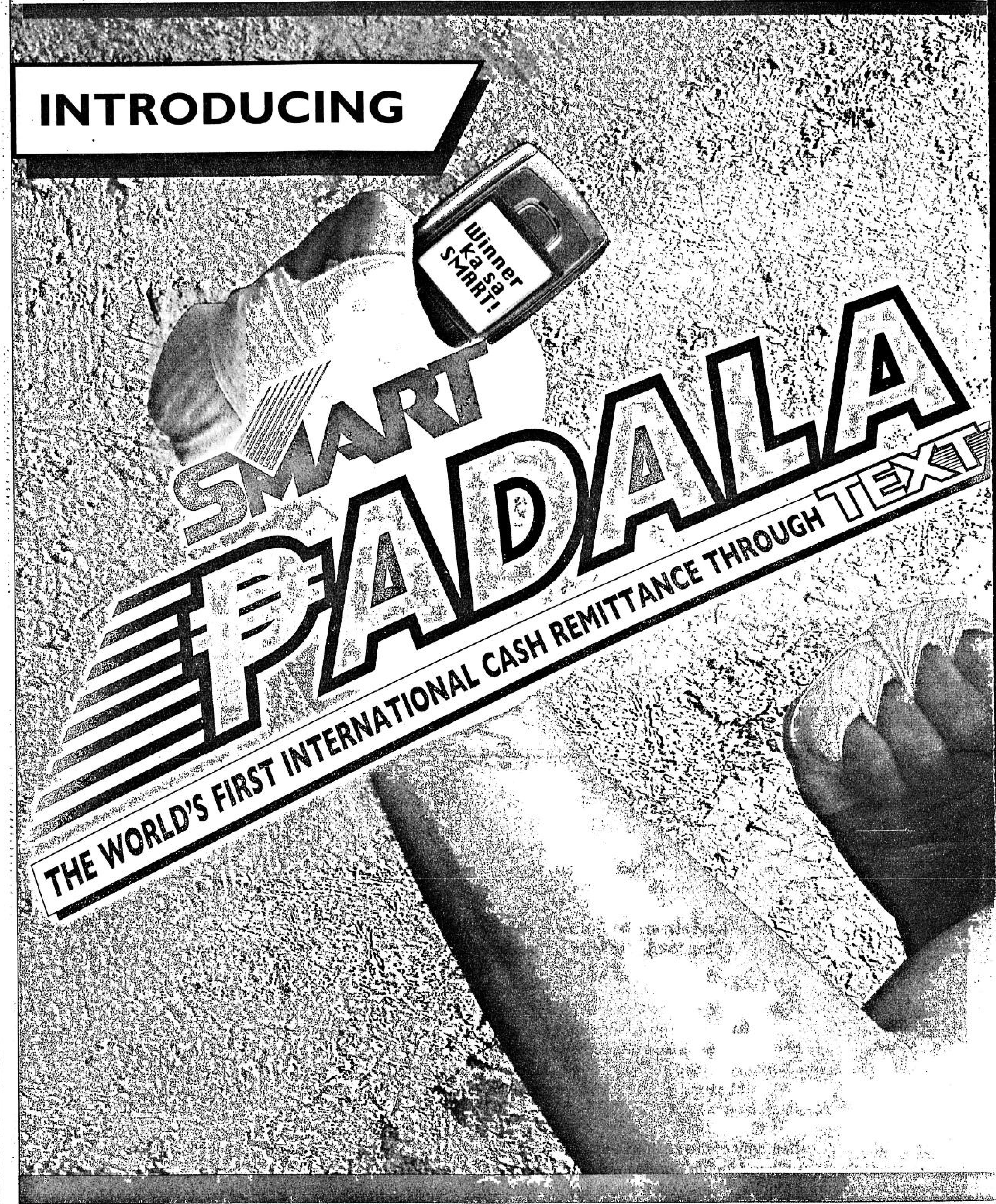
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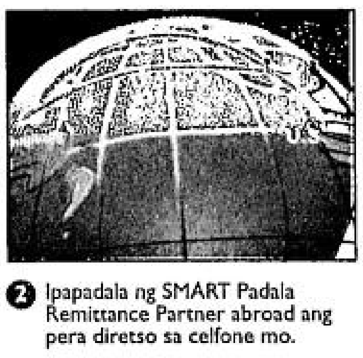

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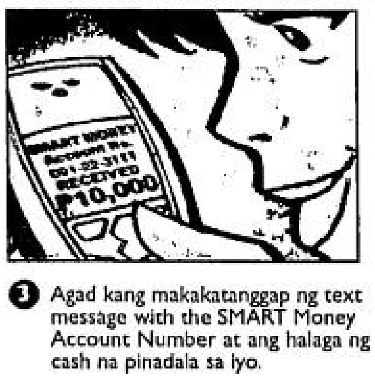
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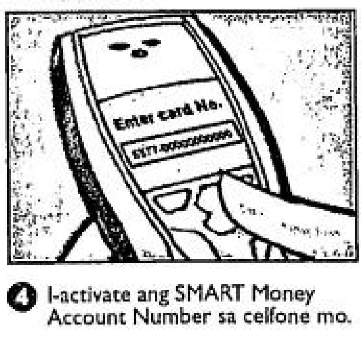
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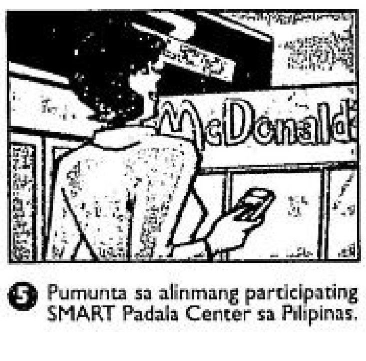

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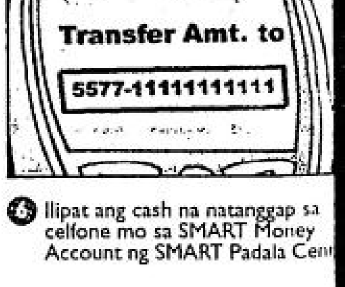
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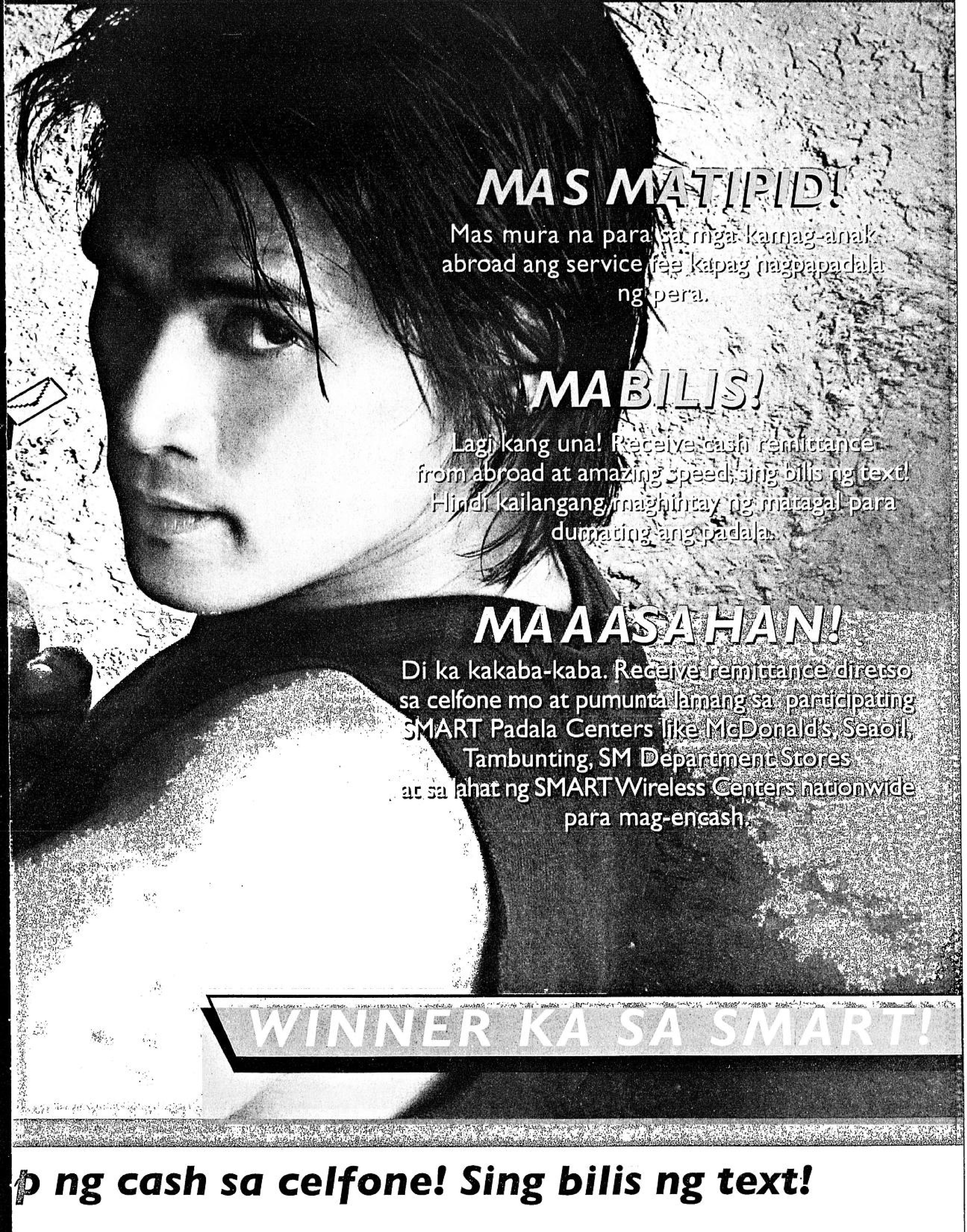

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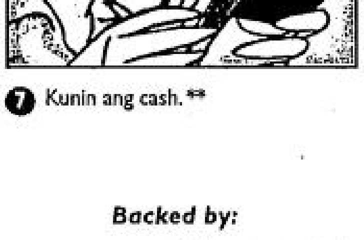

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ISSN 0116-2642 PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER Vol. 19 No. 237

OPINION

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THE PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER, INC. has its business and editorial offices at
• Chino Roces Ave corner Yague and Mascardo Sts., Makati City
• P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City
• Our telephone numbers are 897-8808 connecting all departments
• Editorial Fax 897-4793 / 897-4794 • Advertising 897-4807
• Circulation 527-3342 / 527-3348 / 528-0183 / 528-0186 and 528-0213 / Fax: 528-02-34.

Publisher **Isagani Yambot**
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Clean air?

EDITORIAL

THE AIR quality in Metro Manila and some outlying areas "is within acceptable levels," the Environmental Management Bureau said in a press statement last week. The statement raised the quizzical eyebrows of not a few people who didn't think they were just imagining all the smog and haze that they had been seeing and experiencing in the metropolis.

A six-column photo on the front page of the INQUIRER yesterday showing a gray haze of pollutants hovering over the metropolis quickly belied the EMB statement. On a clear day, if you stand on a high point in Antipolo or any other elevated part of the metropolis, you will see—not forever, but an enfolding gray haze that is enough to make you want to hold your breath or immediately put on a gas mask.

Some progress has been made in reducing air pollution but we strongly doubt whether it has been brought "within acceptable levels." A recent World Bank study showed that annual air pollution standards are exceeded in 70 percent or 22 out of 32 of the monitoring sites. Metro Manila, where the eight-hour standard is exceeded, has the worst readings. Its residents are exposed to more than 100,000 tons of particulate matter every year. But the good news is that ambient (environmental) levels are down due to the elimination of lead in gasoline since January 2001.

Diesel emissions from buses, jeepneys, utility vehicles and trucks are estimated to be the biggest contributor to urban air pollution. Last year, there were 4.2 million registered vehicles in the country, a more than threefold increase from 1.2 million in 1983. A fast growth in vehicle ownership is contributing significantly to air pollution.

Jeepneys remain a popular choice for daily transport in Metro Manila, and drivers and passengers—especially school children—are exposed daily to air pollution. Two-stroke engines power more than 75 percent of motorcycles and tricycles. Their exhaust contains a higher level of fine particles, unburned fuel and lubricants than those of four-stroke engines. Recently there was a move to ban two-stroke engines in some parts of Metro Manila but officials backed down when tricycle drivers mounted a strike that threatened to cripple transport on the side streets of the metropolis.

Industries, most of which are located in the Metro Manila airshed, contribute a lot to air pollution. They include thermal power stations, cement manufacturing plants and oil refineries. Oil- and coal-fired power plants, many of which are also located in the metropolis, emit 223,000 metric tons of sulfur dioxide every year.

Monitoring of three other cities—Baguio, Cebu and Davao—shows that averages of total suspended particulates have exceeded guidelines in recent years.

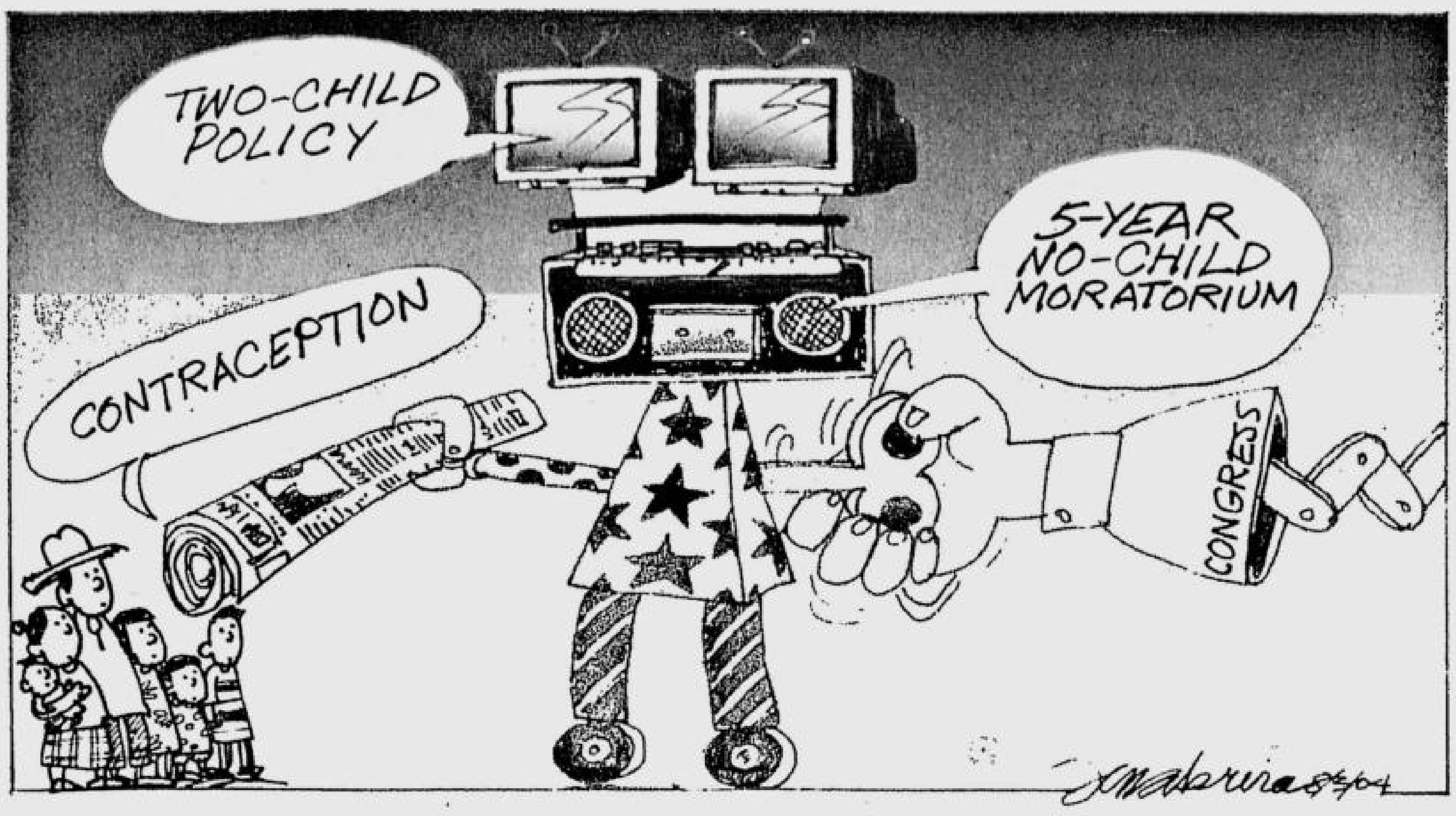
The health cost of air pollution in the four major cities of the country has been estimated to be more than $400 million (about P22.4 billion) a year or approximately 0.6 percent of the country's gross domestic product. It has been estimated that more than 2,000 people die prematurely every year because of air pollution. More than 9,000 people suffer from acute bronchitis. And nearly 51 million "respiratory-symptom days" are recorded yearly in Metro Manila.

Air pollution has produced not only a health problem but an esthetic problem: it is one big cause of the "uglification" of the cities. It also causes loss of productivity and damages ecosystems and physical infrastructure.

What has to be done to improve air quality not just in Metro Manila but the entire country? For starters, the enforcement of laws and regulations, including the Clean Air Act, has to be intensified. The capacity of government agencies to enforce the rules has to be strengthened. The anti-smoke belching campaigns in major cities and towns will have to be intensified.

The cities and municipalities will have to pass ordinances requiring improved maintenance for high-use commercial vehicles, the use of improved fuel and a shift to four-stroke motorcycles. Public transport and traffic management will also have to be improved. Huge traffic jams contribute a lot to air pollution.

Enforcement of regulations that would improve air quality could be strengthened by offering incentives and imposing penalties. A nationwide information campaign could promote public awareness of the problem of air pollution and at the same time encourage widespread participation in the efforts to improve air quality. Everyone has to do his part to solve the problem before the very air that we breathe makes us sick or kills us.



'Ovarian lottery'

VIEWPOINT

Juan L. Mercado

"WE'RE attending a Nutrition Day school program," explained my grandchildren, Camille, 12, and Adrian, 8, as they passed by. On our terrace, I was blue-pencilling the 6th National Nutrition Survey's dense data for 800 jargon-free words the opinion editor expects.

Some good news first. "There has been a general improvement between 1998 and 2003 in the country's overall nutritional situation," the Food and Nutrition Institute's Dr. Corazon Barba reports.

Reductions in underweight and stunting among kids were tracked. Pregnant and lactating women put on weight. "Chronic energy deficits" in listless adults dwindled.

But contrasts were disheartening. Camille and Adrian belonged to a sliver-thin group of adequately nourished kids. Others their age remained ill-fed. As a result, they were scrawnier, shorter, frailer.

Among children between 5 and 10, almost 27 percent were underweight. Nationwide, that's 2.49 million thinner kids that grandparents fret over. About four out of 10 were shorter. Are the 3.41 million affected tomorrow's generation of "midgets"?

Pre-natal care and adequate nutrition are crucial. "Many of the things we need can wait," Nobel Laureate Gabriel Mistral wrote. "The child cannot wait. Now is the time his bones are being formed, his blood made and his sinews developed. To him we can not say: tomorrow. His name is today."

Camille and Adrian—along with Alexia, 3, in Palo Alto, and Kristin, one, in from Vietnam—didn't have to wait. Were they, therefore, unwitting winners in what some planners dub the "ovarian lottery"?

Born into the country's thin middle class, they were vaccinated routinely against hepatitis B, tetanus, measles, etc. Doctors tracked their development and nutrition, in the womb and onwards.

But poverty and joblessness deny to many what should be standard care. Anemia still scourges at obscene levels, and the most vulnerable are pregnant and breast-feeding mothers. Almost half (44 percent) of women on the family way are anemic. So are 42 percent of lactating women. These cannot breast-feed their infants adequately.

"Like runners, generations pass on the torch of life," Lucretius wrote. They also pass on frailties.

Prevalence of anemia in infants up to two years of age "continued to increase, and is alarmingly high," Dr. Barba reveals. Most (66 percent) of those who are six months to one-year old were anemic. More than half of toddlers (53 percent) up to age two were afflicted.

Lack of Vitamin A, iron and iodine sap intelligence quotients. IQs of poorly nourished children can be stripped from "10 to 14 percent," the Asian Development Bank estimates. "Cognitive loss" is 10 percent for stunted individuals; 4 percent for iodine deficient victims. "That can never be recovered."

"Cognitive deficits" are reduced mental capacity. "The belt doesn't go through all the loops," some wise guys crack. But it's no laughing matter that our kids come in 37th out of 38 countries that signed up for the International Mathematics and Science exams.

Poor schooling and poor nutrition are factors. "Many kids come to school without breakfast," says Deputy Speaker for the Visayas Raul del Mar.

These form the backdrop against which Nutrition Month is marked and, more important, the Food Fortification Law (Republic Act 8976) operates—or is skirted. This is a country where many water down the Ten Commandments to Ten Suggestions. Laws are devalued from directives into recommendations.

Food fortification, the Nutrition Center's Dr. Florentino Solon explains, adds on critical micronutrients, like vitamin A or iron, into widely consumed foods, That's the lowly noodles and near-universal *pan de sal.*

Among pre-schoolers, 46 out of every hundred eat bread, a UP College of Home Economics study reveals. Noodles form the staple for 26. Hence, wheat flour—basic ingredient for noodles and *pan de sal*—was pinpointed as the most suitable for food fortification. Edible oil is next, followed by sugar.

Local research documents this simple technology's impact. After eating fortified *pan de sal* everyday for six months, "half the number of these children with inadequate stores of vitamin A in the liver were back to normal." About 80 percent of vitamin A was retained in wheat flour a month after it was added.

"Probably, no other technology available today offers as large an opportunity to improve lives and to accelerate development, at such a low cost, and in so short a time," the World Bank says.

"Fortification of a loaf of *pan de sal* would cost less than half a centavo," Dr. Solon estimates. Cost is what flour millers, who operate 15 mills—11 in Luzon, two each in the Visayas and Mindanao—grapple with. Their bottom lines reflect the skid in the peso exchange when implementing the law.

But social responsibility requires that profits factor in the cost of sharing. That is also good business. "The cost is minuscule. The benefit is enormous," Philip Punarma of the Bogosan Flour Mills of Indonesia said. "We have acted on this issue both because it is right, and because it puts our business in a positive light."

The wife and I are now in the twilight of our lives. Like other grandparents, we wonder: Before we pass on to "rest with our fathers," how can we teach Camille, Adrian, Alexia and Kristin that their breaks in life also impose a duty: that of sharing with those who lost in the ovarian lottery?

(*E-mail : juan_mercado@pacific.net.ph*)

Terror

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

FROM THE FIRST, state prosecutor Nestor Lazaro's quote should have rung alarm bells furiously. He quoted Gracia Burnham as saying: "There was no collusion between the ASG and the military." That bald statement is totally out of sync with Burnham's personality or way of phrasing things.

I myself was wondering how long it would take Burnham to issue a statement refuting it. She would not have called Lazaro a barefaced liar (that is not her personality or way of phrasing things too), but she would have left no doubt about his sorry predilection for wish-fulfillment. This wasn't just a case of separating grain from chaff, government's favorite pastime whenever it keeps proceedings away from public view. This was a case of digging up organic fertilizer and feeding it to the public.

But as it turns out, Burnham may not have to. Aladin Bacolodan of ABS-CBN, who chanced upon the judge's staff reviewing a videotape of the proceedings, reported that Burnham did not say anything at all. She never had a chance to. The prosecution objected to the defense's question, "Was there collusion between the ASG and the military?" and the judge ruled that the defense might ask the witness that question later.

It's a no-brainer whom to believe, Aladin or Lazaro. Aladin holds the lamp of truth while Lazaro seems to want only to resurrect the dead in its decomposing state.

Before she left, Burnham said tearfully she hoped this country would finally be free of terrorism. She meant, of course, free of groups like the Abu Sayyaf and others who prey on the innocent. One can only appreciate the sentiment, particularly from someone who has deeply suffered. It is Christian virtue in resplendence: despite her ordeal, Gracia Burnham can only think not of herself but of others.

But there is something that ravages this country far more wantonly and deeply than the terror being sown by the Abu Sayyaf. There is something that assaults this country far more brutally and fiendishly than even the terror being wreaked by those who threatened Angelo de los Reyes with beheading a few weeks ago. One whose consequences are far more chilling and longer-lasting than the mutilated bodies left behind by groups like the Abu Sayyaf and Iraqi Islamic Army.

That is the tangled skein of lies and deceit that has been mounted on us by this government, the same tangled skein of lies and deceit that has been mounted on the American public by George W. Bush, which Michael Moore brilliantly dissects in "Fahrenheit 9/11." (I'll write about the documentary tomorrow.) That is what we need to be freed from before anything else, that is what we need to be freed from above everything else. We are not freed from that, we will never be free of terror.

The cases of Angelo de la Cruz and Gracia Burnham have one thing in common, at least as government has manipulated them. Both are based on lies, both are based on deceit. Both have been turned into triumphs of government when they represent its most dismal failures. Both have been surrounded by a lot of hype and festivity to make the public remember how they ended but not how they began.

In the case of De la Cruz, we were made to remember only that government rescued him by pulling out our troops. We were made to forget that the reason he was abducted and threatened with death in the first place was that his president made war on his captors.

In the case of Burnham, well, the lying is more direct and breathtaking. I mean you've got to be a little sick when you object to a witness answering a question and then put words in her mouth. Did Lazaro think he could perpetuate his lie indefinitely without the truth coming out eventually? Or did he figure that once Gracia Burnham got to issue a statement refuting his version, it would be buried by an avalanche of other events, nobody would be interested anymore and the incident would become just another minor footnote to history?

But that's not the biggest lie of all. What is, perpetuated by both the GMA and Bush governments, is that Gracia Burnham is the victim of terrorism and government has scored a triumph against it by rescuing her from it. What terrorism? One cannot doubt that Gracia Burnham and her fellow hostages lived in stark and absolute terror during their days of captivity. That doesn't make their case a case of terrorism, other than by semantic sleight-of-hand.

What should be patent now, if it was not so then, is that the Abu Sayyaf is a group that has broken away from the MILF, turned into a bandit group and started kidnapping tourists when it ran out of foreign missionaries. Its essential character is not that it believes in Islam and beheads hostages, its essential character is that it kidnaps people and demands ransom. It is not an ideological or religious group, it is a criminal gang. It is not kin to the al-Qaida, it is kin to the breakaway-NPAs that abducted Cory Quirino in the 1990s and the ex-Huks turned renegades that preyed on fringe villages in the late 1950s. Indeed, it is kin to the kidnap gangs that have been preying on the Chinese in Metro Manila.

Kidnappers do wreak terror: Ask Gracia Burnham, ask the kin of Charlene Sy. That does not make them terrorists, that does not make rescuing their hostages a blow against terrorism.

The case of Gracia Burnham was first and last a failure of government to ensure peace and order, the case of the Abu Sayyaf is first and last a failure of government to stop criminal gangs, Muslim and Christian, ex-convicts or ex-extremists, from turning this country, from Aparri to Jolo, into a kidnapper's paradise.

There is only one thing that has been known to set people free, as Burnham's own favorite book says. That is the truth.

Amor propio?

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

AT THE RECEPTION after the President's State of the Nation Address, a number of people expressed some puzzlement about GMA's claim that she had the distinction of winning the biggest majority among elected presidents of this country. One of the puzzled folks was Indian Ambassador Navrekha Sharma, who thought that former President Estrada held that distinction in 1998. As I myself didn't catch that part too well, I rang up GMA's election lawyer, Romeo Macalintal, and he explained where the confusion lay.

Macalintal said the Indian ambassador was correct in the sense that Erap won the largest majority as a candidate, garnering about 10 million votes against the over five million votes of his closest rival, Jose de Venecia. But GMA topped Erap's vote last May 10 when she got about 12 million, and Macalintal said one reason was the increase in the size of the electorate.

* * *

I asked Macalintal to explain his published opinion that the protest case filed by opposition candidates Fernando Poe Jr. and Loren Legarda before the Presidential Electoral Tribunal might take at least 10 years to complete. He opined that apart from the fact that protest cases, in this case involving returns from about 120,000 precincts, take an enormous length of time, what complicates this case is that there can be no "simultaneous revision." Thus, he said, a revision by the PET could take about four and a half in the case of FPJ alone, and an equal length of time for Legarda' case. This is because there is no bloc voting in this country and there were places where FPJ or GMA won but not their running mates. I asked GMA's lawyer how much it would cost to mount a protest case and he said that at the very least this would involve P150 million.

Given all these and the fact that their staunchest supporters, Senators Edgardo Angara and Aquilino Pimentel, are now busy with their resumed careers in the Senate (I understand that they tried to discourage the candidates from filing), I'm left wondering why the opposition candidates filed their protest at all. Is it merely *amor propio*? Then too, couldn't FPJ have filed without Legarda, or vice versa, not together, thus choosing the one with the stronger prospect of winning the protest?

* * *

I'm glad that Lt. Gen. Romeo Dominguez, chief of the AFP Northern Luzon Command, decided to take the bull by the horns, hopefully for the last time. He was accused by a local source in Basilan of having colluded with the Abu Sayyaf in the kidnapping of Filipino and foreign hostages, including the missionaries Martin and Gracia Burnham, and receiving money in exchange for allowing them to escape the military siege in Lamitan, Basilan, in June 2001. The Nolcom chief was quoted as saying, "Your soldiers make mistakes. But under no circumstances will they accept blood money."

* * *

Dominguez was accused of allegedly compromising the welfare of his men and the AFP in exchange for P25 million, given supposedly right in the thick of battle to guarantee the kidnappers' and their victims' escape. If true, that indeed would be blood money. But as I had told a senator, who was reviewing the general's case before the Commission on Appointments, nothing could be more ridiculous than that accusation—there must be a million easier ways to make money than to accept a briefcase stuffed with millions *in the heat of battle*. The accusation apparently came about because Dominguez's aide was seen carrying a case containing some money. But as every military man knows, officers have to carry some money all the time, in case they need it for operations. There are no ATMs in battle areas.

* * *

As I wrote at the time, the AFP is really a small family and people in it know who are the rotten eggs and who the upright ones. Dominguez enjoys a solid reputation in the AFP and the fact that he had been promoted twice since that time and confirmed twice by the Commission on Appointments should have put this issue to rest. No wonder this country does not move. We keep resurrecting issues. But media shouldn't fall prey to clear manipulation by certain vested interests.

* * *

The INQUIRER ran a good issue in last Sunday's "Talk of the Town," edited by Juan V. Sarmiento Jr., when it raised the question of whether day care centers can bridge the education gap. The President in her Sona had asked Congress to legislate an extra year of studies not by adding a fifth year of high school but by "standardizing what is taught in barangay day care centers." The section featured articles by Social Welfare Secretary Corazon Soliman and Maricel Dacuycuy of the Early Childhood Education Division in Muntinlupa City, which both argued that strengthening the early formative years of students is far better than adding one year in high school. There's little quarrel about the importance of the first six years of a child's life in preparing him for life's work, or even his ability at that age to pick up skills for life. For instance, GMA has told the media that the reason she remains fluent in Cebuano is that she picked it up during her pre-school years in Northern Mindanao.

GMA's call for strengthening the pre-school year effectively discards Education Secretary Edilberto de Jesus' advocacy of a "bridge program" to help the overwhelming majority of elementary graduates who recently failed the high school readiness test. But I submit that the pre-school year is a long-term solution. There should still be a bridge program to address the short-term problem of how to strengthen our elementary graduates' ability to tackle high school. De Jesus explained it so well in our dzRH program: postponing this bridge program only delays the agony that the incompetent students will face during their college years and in the competitive world beyond.

Buying (and selling) fair

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

WHAT if you could, simply by buying something, help poor families improve their lot, communities achieve self-reliance, and the nation as a whole reach higher levels of development?

What if you could, simply by making the right choice while shopping, help promote fair living wages for workers, eradicate child labor, ensure fair working conditions for all workers, especially women workers, and protect the environment?

Well, these aren't "what if's" anymore. Through the International Fair Trade Association (IFAT), fair trade organizations around the world are linking small producers and buyers in an exchange of goods and services meant to create opportunities for "producers who have been economically disadvantaged or marginalized by the conventional trading system."

Linking hundreds of farmers organizations, cooperatives, collectives and small entrepreneurs with traders and retailers, fair trade organizations promote the marketing of products whose producers have undergone strict monitoring and certification that guarantees they not only produce quality products in an environmentally friendly manner, but that they also pay their workers fairly, provide a safe and healthy working environment, and pay men and women workers equally.

Indeed, if the "Good Housekeeping" seal has become synonymous with quality and safety, the IFAT Global Mark, which certified fair trade groups are allowed to carry, may well become the seal for, as the Asian Fair Trade Alliance slogan goes: "Quality that Cares."

These are the fair trade guarantees: fair pay, allocation of social premium, health and safety in the workplace, fair and sound employment conditions for children and women, human development in the workplace, responsible environmental practices, and the promotion of fair trade.

So imagine, just by doing a "small" thing as buying a product from any of the 22 members of the local fair trade organization, you would already be helping promote "big" social issues.

* * *

CONSUMER awareness of fair trade practices is not such a big thing yet in the country, but it's quite ingrained among consumers in Europe, I'm told, and taking hold in the United States as well.

Already, such large international outfits like The Body Shop and even Starbucks have enshrined fair trade in their business practices. The Body Shop makes it a point to source majority of its products from manufacturers and community groups in developing countries, helping them develop their product quality and packaging while ensuring their trade contains a "social premium," such as supporting orphans or assisting in the development of communities.

Starbucks has a special niche for "fair trade coffee," coffee sourced from manufacturers and traders that have undergone the fair trade scrutiny.

Locally, from a scan of the membership of the Philippine Fair Trade Forum, one can be a socially responsible consumer of such items as muscovado sugar, handmade paper, bamboo craft, native weaves, coffee and foodstuffs from upland communities, dairy products, fruits and even organic rice and vegetables.

"At present, we're talking about a very small proportion of the total global trade," says Alex Hermoso, chairman of the Philippine Fair Trade Forum. "But if we're successful, we can prove that trade can work for small producers, that they don't have to settle for unfair prices or ruinous conditions just because they're small."

* * *

LAST month, the Philippines became the third stop in a global journey of the "FTO Mark," a banner that carries the symbol of fair trade organizations, through all the countries where IFAT has members and carried by FTOs and their supporters on foot, bicycle or any transport (elephant, camel, rickshaw, boat) where the banner can be seen by everyone.

The FTO Mark was first received in Davao City through a Farmers' Forum on Fair Trade. From Mindanao, the Mark was passed on to the Visayas and paraded in Bacolod, Iloilo and Cebu. In Manila, the FTO Mark was displayed through a motorcade that started at the Quezon City Memorial Circle and culminated in a "send-off party" at the Conspiracy Bar along Visayas Avenue in Quezon City.

The objective of the Global Journey is to raise awareness about fair trade principles and the issues it seeks to address and promote. The Journey is also a means by which IFAT member-groups could promote themselves as fair trade organizations and their products as well.

* * *

HERMOSO says the challenge facing fair trade organizations, especially the producers, is to upgrade their quality, their "capacity to meet mainstream standards."

Good intentions and laudable principles, after all, are no excuse to produce products that are of shoddy quality or worse, unsafe and unsanitary.

Part of the goals of fair trade, after all, is to give their products an "edge," where the consumer, all things being equal, will be convinced to buy fair trade products because not only are they of equal quality and competitive price, but also because buying them will result in a social good.

Unfortunately, under present circumstances, buying fair trade products is not always easy and convenient, nor are they necessarily of the same or better quality than their commercial counterparts. It seems FTOs have their work cut out for them, for in the battle for the consumer's eye and wallet, good intentions are not enough.

Some notes on Muslim Mindanao

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper

IT is believed that Moros or the people of Mindanao were descended from the Dyaks of Borneo. It is said that two Borneo chiefs who were brothers quarreled and one of them was forced to flee. His partisans accompanied him and they settled in Basilan, then called Taguima from a river of that name.

This chief was called Paguian Tindig. He was followed by his cousin Adasaolan who remained in Basilan while Tindig left for Sulu where he conquered the locals and made them his vassals. When the Spaniards pacified Butuan, Tindig agreed to acknowledge Spanish rule in exchange for undisturbed possession of Sulu which he had founded.

In the meantime, Adasaolan married Princess Paguian Goan, daughter of Dimasangcay, the king of Mindanao, by his wife Imbog, a Sulu woman. With this relationship, he embraced the Muslim faith.

Overcome with ambition and encouraged by his father-in-law who promised support, Adasaolan invaded Sulu and attempted to murder Tindig. Adasaolan failed, because it was said the posts supporting Tindig's fortified dwelling were greased with oil.

Tindig then declared war on the Basilan king after seeking help from the Spanish authorities in Manila who sent two armed boats. Unfortunately, the ships arrived late. As Tindig's forces approached Basilan, Adasaolan fell upon them and completely routed them. Tindig died in the fighting, and by the time the Spaniards arrived, there was no one left so they returned to Manila.

Adasaolan couldn't annex Sulu because Rajah Bongso succeeded Tindig. But Adasaolan made alliances with Mindanao and Borneo, introducing Islam into Sulu, an area known as Jolo by the Spaniards.

The earliest records relating to Mindanao in the archives is about a proposal made in 194 to Governor Perez de Dasmariñas by a rich Mexican, Estevan Rodriguez, to conquer Mindanao. It took so long to receive an answer from Madrid that the man decided to return home.

Confirmation came together with a new governor, and Rodriguez and his family, together with three priests, embarked for the south. They stopped in Oton (Panay Island) and left in April 1596. Upon reaching the Rio Grande de Mindanao, the ship went as far as Buhayen in the territory of Datu Silongan. The *maestre de campo*, Juan de la Jara, went ashore to reconnoiter but took so long that the impatient Rodriguez buckled his sword and disembarked, accompanied by his Cebuano servant and two Spaniards.

The party met two Moros. One was killed by Rodriguez. The other dealt him a blow to the head and he died six hours later. It turned out the Moro was the brother of Datu Silangan.

Rodriguez's body was sent to Manila for burial, and the expedition under de Lara fared badly. One member of his party was killed, another was seriously wounded and the rest fled.

It was decided to construct trenches at the mouth of the river and establish camp.

While all this was happening, the *maestre* was having an affair with Rodriquez's wife and proposed marriage, a proposal she indignantly refused. Nothing was gained from the expedition.

In 1638, another expedition headed by Governor-General Sebastian Hurtado de Corcuera was organized against the Moros. The first landing in Sulu was made in April 17. Military posts were established on the coast of Mindanao, one of which, Sampanilla (later called Malabang), on the shores of Illana Bay was abandoned until 1891 when General Weyler built a fort there.

Alliances between Sulu and Mindanao gave rise to piracy that spread into other parts of the archipelago. It could be claimed perhaps that the Spaniards started it by trying to conquer Mindanao, an unsuccessful venture. Each succeeding governor fitted out expeditions against the pirates. It cost the Spaniards lives and millions of dollars just to keep it in check. But the raids resulted in the sacking of villages, the murder of its inhabitants. Others were held captive, churches were looted, local trade interrupted. The natives were driven to the uplands and many dared not live near the coast. The Sulus captured Christian natives and Spaniards alike, but a Spanish priest was considered a prize catch.

The positive effect of the raids is that inland territory began to be developed and land cultivated in the interior. With progress, armed steamers were able to navigate the waters of the archipelago and piracy tapered off. In 1857-1860, 18 steam boats were ordered to patrol the islands putting an end to piracy.

The boldest warrior ruled over a territory, assuming the title of sultan or datu. One of the oldest titles was that of Prince of Sibuguey whose territory was situated on the northeast coast of Zamboanga. The title later fell into disuse, and the grandson of the last prince, the present (c. 1906) *manguiguin* or sultan of Mindanao, resided at Dinas. The sultanate dated from 1640. The sultan's heir was called Rajahmudah.

Zamboanga, during the protracted struggle, became the headquarters of the Spaniards in the south. After Cavite, it was the chief naval station. A penitentiary was also established there, but its maintenance proved to be such a great burden that about the year 1635, the military who had described it as "the sepulchre of the Spaniards," posed that it be abandoned. The Jesuits, however, argued against it since it was to their interest to have material support close at hand for their evangelization efforts.

(John Foreman, "The Philippine Islands," 1906.)

Silent presence

YOUNG BLOOD

Vic Rosales

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

THE SOUND of silence can be deafening. Love in silence can be most unbearable. To those who must feel love through verbal expression, silence is the cold air that chills the heart in times of loneliness.

This was not the case with my father. Everyone who had met my father always said that he was a quiet man. He had the demeanor of a wise man who listened to all and said what is needed. His actions spoke much louder than the few "I love you's" that he ever said. His love was always felt, even when he was not physically present.

One way he expressed it was through his cell phone. He racked up the highest bill in the family, but it was worth every peso because we knew that most of his calls were made to other members family. He rarely texted us; he preferred to call. The few text messages he would send were very concise. "Where are you?" "How are you doing?" and "Please take care of yourself" were the most common messages I received from him. His love could be felt in every text.

I often wondered why he was so quiet. I suppose he always felt good intentions were better seen than heard. He often reminded me that everyone says they want change, but it is the individual who works for it, who sees beyond the pessimism of the world and actually perseveres in doing the right things, not the popular ones, who will make the real change.

One time we had a fight because he didn't take the medicines for his diabetes. I ended up blurting out an expletive and adding, *"Ganyan na pala? Kanya-kanyang buhay na? Bahala ka na diyan!"* as I left his room.

Not even five minutes later, I texted him: "I'm sorry, Dad, it's just that we have so much to worry about. You have to live long for me. I love you very much."

He replied: "Its ok. I love you too."

The week before his death, it happened again. We had the same fight, but this time I could sense that he was very tired. After I expressed my apology, he replied tersely, "It's ok."

Troubled, I entered his room repeatedly saying sorry and asking if he was mad (a rhetorical question because he never got mad). He said, "It's nothing. I'm just very tired."

It wasn't uncommon for him to feel tired. I knew what diabetes was doing to him. But that Sunday he seemed to be unusually tired. Maybe it was a premonition, or a very important case was bothering him, but I had never feared so much for my best friend.

The moments preceding his death was a testament to the beautiful love he had for our family. My father suffered a most gruesome death. He was shot at close range five times in the head and his brains were shattered. He should have just dropped dead with his mortal wounds.

But to avoid hitting people on the street, my father still managed to swerve the car and hit a wall. He then got out before falling on the street. And he lived for more than two hours more despite his wounds.

I've heard doctors and many others say that with the injuries he sustained, it was unbelievable that he still lived that long. As he was being brought to the hospital, no cries of pain were heard from him. Knowing him, I believe he kept the pain to himself and as in other times when he was sick, he prayed for God's mercy.

As soon as my mother heard that he had been shot, all she wanted was to be at Dad's side right away. As she was rushing with my sister, grandmother and aunt from our house to Tanauan, Batangas a good one hour and a half away, she was praying, "Please, Lord, just one minute!"

I was on the way home when I heard the news. My body felt so weak. My legs felt like jelly as I took every step, and I was close to breaking down when I entered our house. Every moment I could feel my Dad's pain. I feared the worst when I could not contact my Mom and my sister. In delirium, I asked my father to give me the strength to accept what had happened to him.

It was about 1 o'clock in the afternoon when my mother reached the hospital in Tanauan. She was greeted by a sight no wife (or daughter) should ever see: a husband drenched in a pool of his own blood, hanging on to dear life through God's favor. His silence was like a knife cutting through their hearts. One of his eyes was shut and the other was half-open. My mother, wishing for my father's pain to end, closed his half-open eye.

Then a miracle happened. My father opened his eyes, and my Mom knew that God had answered her prayer to be given just one minute with him. With tears falling from her face, she told my Dad, "I love you very much, and I know you love me."

My father smiled for the last time and died in my Mom's embrace.

Even in silence, my father touched us with his love to the very end. It was as if God taught him to prepare us for his tragic end. It's not easy for our family to have just three of us now, but Dad always said that God does things for a reason. His silence taught us to feel him even without his physical presence.

It is a surreal experience to lose someone so violently. I always believed a man devoted to the Sacred Heart and serving as a Eucharistic minister would always be protected by the Lord. But God must have a bigger mission for him, and that is why he had to go that way.

Going quietly would have made his death just another statistic. But because of his brutal murder, people have become aware of the dangers of being a judge in this country. Judges are the front liners in the dispensation of justice. They have become virtual sitting ducks for hardened criminals who do not agree with their decisions. They are tough civil servants who serve their country, risking their own lives and the future of their families.

Let this be the last atrocity to be committed against our judges. It is not easy to lose a father and a best friend. To us he was a hero, even if to the government he was just a statistic. This should not be the case, for judges are human beings with loved ones, just like mayors or congressmen and other officials. There must be reforms to protect and support judges and their families during their life and after their death.

Dad may be gone, but his undying love for God, his family and his country will be eternally remembered. I will miss his caring voice, loving handshake and his tight hug which always made me feel secure and happy. In our home, we will forever feel the silent presence of my Dad, my hero and my best friend.

Vic Rosales, 20, is a second year political science student at the Ateneo de Manila University. He is the son of Judge Voltaire Rosales of Tanauan, Batangas who was handling heinous crimes when he was murdered last June.

The INQUIRER is a member of the
PHILIPPINE PRESS INSTITUTE
The National Association of Philippine Newspapers

Characters in government

DO government executives have character? Or are they characters?

A government executive's character comes from the positive qualities that make up his or her personality. Specifically, if a government executive has character, he or she is courageous and determined. Hence, he or she has guts to blow the whistle on sins of corruption. And he or she is determined to institute changes in the civil service, if needed.

But instead of having character, many of them are characters, meaning, persons who are interesting, unusual or amusing. In each government agency there are directors who have the interesting practice of reporting for work late by two hours and leaving the office early by an hour. Interesting because obviously they have a blurred or defective sense of time, which makes them unable to lead by correct example.

Some have the unusual habit of reading all the local dailies before they start working, instead of doing their work first before reading the dailies supplied by the government.

But the most amusing behavior of government directors is their signing documents the contents of which break all the rules of grammar and usage. They do this daily without appearing delirious or demented.

—T.B. ABAYAN,
13-A Banning St.,
North Fairview, Quezon City

Revive Emergency Employment Administration

THE COUNTRY'S unemployment problem has become a nasty boil on the nation's face. If not properly dealt with now, later treatment would be costly, and the trauma and pain to the nation's consciousness would be unbearable.

I wonder how President Macapagal-Arroyo validates her claim that a million jobs were created last year and millions more are on the front burner of her 10-point agenda. The statistics and data, much less the paychecks, are hard to find.

In the face of this harsh reality, we call for the immediate revival of the Emergency Employment Administration (EEA), first introduced during the time of Pres. Diosdado Macapagal. It was patterned after a similar employment program of US President F.D. Roosevelt during America's Great Depression in the '30s.

As the first EEA, the "new" EEA shall have the responsibility and accountability to give employment to every able-bodied Filipino of working age. It shall be made to report to Congress every six months about who, where and when people were given jobs, the way Alan Greenspan, chair of the Federal Reserve Board, twice a year reports to the Capitol on the status of where the US economy is heading.

The "old" EEA, administered by guerrilla war-hero Terry Adevoso, launched job creation projects from Batanes all the way to Sulu.

Thus, in Manila, lots of "*istambays*" were enjoined to use brawn and muscle to clean esteros and creeks. The Intramuros was cleaned and spruced up.

In Minglanilla, Cebu, a Youth Conservation Corps camp was set up where out-of-school youths were given citizenship training and tasked to plant trees.

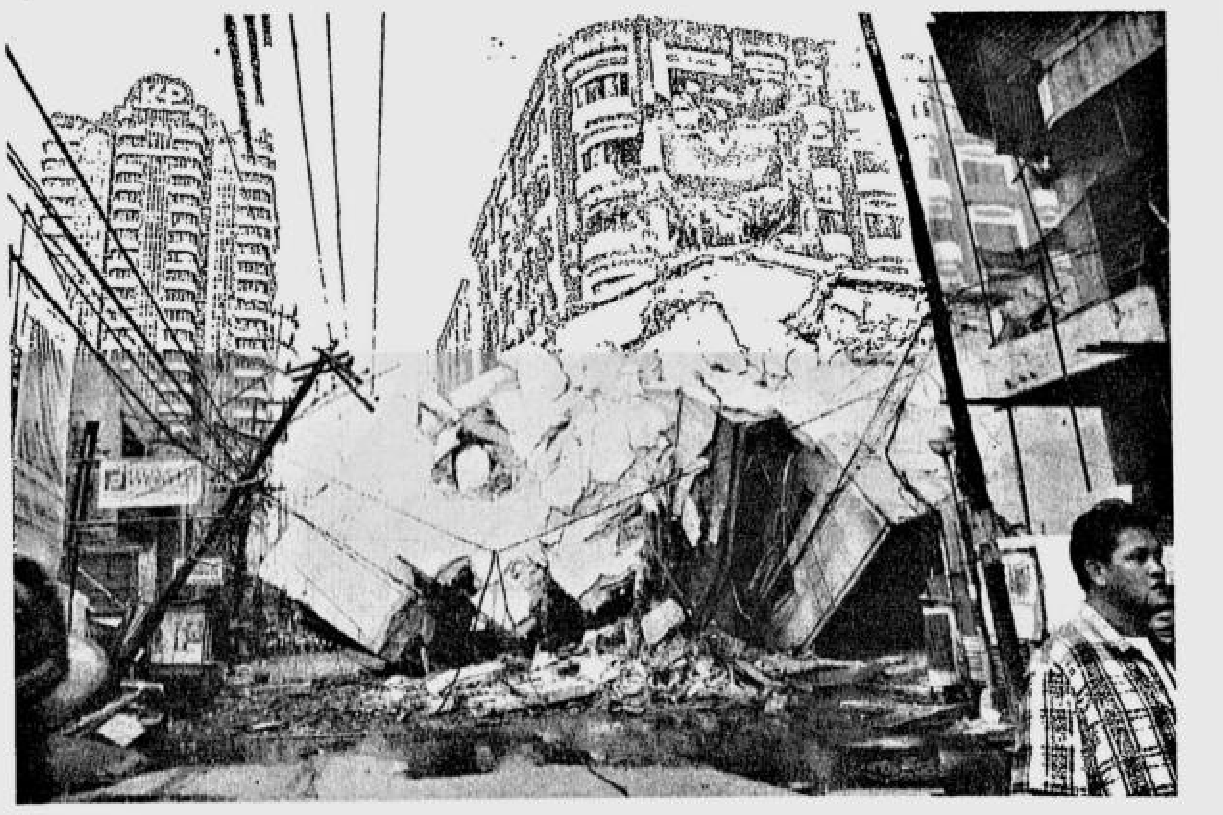
Foot bridges and rural roads were built in Mountain Province and in many other provinces. Fisheries projects helped fisherfolk harvest more. Working students were able to finish their college courses. New graduates, particularly engineers and accountants, gained valuable work experience for future work.

A budget deficit should not prevent the creation of a new EEA. A portion of our lawmakers' P22 billion pork barrel can be re-channeled to fund the program. As a political compromise, all EEA projects shall be credited to lawmakers.

I was a product of the EEA, without which my life would not be what it is now. Most importantly, the EEA saved and nurtured the country's human resource, our biggest asset, which our political leaders seem to take for granted so easily.

Nation-building was the other EEA theme. Its logo featured a pick and a shovel, denoting hard and serious work.

—BEN S. SIMPAO,
San Francisco Bay Area,
USA, BSimpao777@aol.com



SAI Building collapse: a warning

WE commend the city officials of Manila for averting a worse tragedy in the collapse of the SAI Building in Divisoria. The collapse could have resulted in numerous deaths had the city officials not acted soon enough.

The collapse may have provided televiewers with primetime news entertainment, something they thought they could only see through Discovery Channel. However, this should not make us complacent. The Philippines is an earthquake prone country. While scientists cannot predict the exact date and time when the next one will happen, it is reasonable to assume that we could experience a serious earthquake in the near future.

Several areas of Metro Manila are prone to liquefaction during a strong earthquake. The last major earthquake in July 1991 may have resulted in little damage to the metropolis. (Being nearer to the epicenter, Baguio, Dagupan and Cabanatuan were more affected.) However, since then, numerous high-rise buildings (especially business and residential condominiums) have been constructed in Metro Manila and regional cities such as Cebu. The collapse of the SAI Building raises a question on whether the buildings are "earthquake-safe."

Turkey has had a series of severe earthquakes in the last ten years. After many of its high-rise buildings collapsed, the Turkish government had to review its building codes and institute new measures to prevent loss of human lives.

The collapse of the SAI Building should prompt our building officials and the government into checking if the existing high rise buildings meet our national building code standards. According to engineers and architects, we have one of the most advanced building codes in the world. If this was followed by our developers, we have little to fear. Otherwise, we may have a tragedy waiting to happen in our hands.

—BENJAMIN VALLEJO JR., Ph.D.,
Institute of Environmental
Science and Meteorology
College of Science
University of the Philippines
Diliman, Quezon City

Highest form of security

THE COLUMN of Ceres P. Doyo on the environment (PDI, 7/22/04) was like a ray of light in the tangle of Philippine politics. For truly, environmental security is the highest form of security. It was a wake-up call for our government to heed the clamor for a clear environmental policy. Unfortunately, the President's 10-point agenda had not a single word on the environment.

On the other hand, the courage and passion of pro-environment lawyers, like the well-known Antonio Oposa Jr., should embolden more members of the legal profession, as well as all Filipinos, to assert their role as caretakers of the environment and stakeholders in this one Earth.

—MA. ARLENE M. MENDOZA,
Tower One, Ayala Triangle,
Makati City

Loose impressions

LAWYER Pete Magpayo Jr. said in his letter, "Overly fertile imagination" (PDI, 7/19/04), "I am not defending Archbishop Oscar Cruz, but I think he did not mean to give the impression that these girls are of loose morals." He goes on to say that "I believe that the term GRO does not connote a bad meaning, much less something immoral, unless one has a malicious mind or overly fertile imagination."

The professional status of GROs notwithstanding, I wonder if Magpayo is aware of what a typical GRO does for a living. (I also wonder if he believes that the massage parlors along Quezon Avenue and Roxas Boulevard are legitimate health establishments. Or if he believes that wrestling is a real sport.)

Well, Magpayo is entitled to his beliefs. This is a free country. But were the bishop's statements consistent with the claim that "the term GRO does not connote a bad meaning"?

Said the bishop, "Their embarrassing assignment: entertain the President's husband and his close associates," Cruz stated to the press. "They were told to dance with the guests and entertain them. That's very sleazy."

"Embarrassing." "Sleazy." I suggest Magpayo look the words up in the dictionary.

Magpayo ends by suggesting that "the Pagcor girls should not allow themselves to be misled into believing that their reputation has been assailed by their being called GROs." I suggest in turn that Magpayo should not allow himself to be misled into believing that the archbishop was fulfilling Christ's calling when he imputed malicious purposes to the Pagcor girls' work that night.

—MIKE AQUINO
mike_aquino@hotmail.com

Muslim casualties

EVERYONE needs to be aware of the horrendous mortality rate in the Muslim world.

As a senior biological scientist, I have been carefully researching global mortality throughout history. In one approach, I looked into the "excess mortality" in all countries, using UN data. "Excess mortality" is the difference between actual deaths in a country and deaths expected in a decently-run, peaceful country with the same demographics.

The results are startling and horrifying. Thus the "excess mortality" in preponderantly Muslim countries - about 550 million for the period 1950-2004.

This death toll is about one hundred times that of the Jewish Holocaust (six million victims) and of the "forgotten" man-made famine in British-ruled Bengal (four million Muslim and Hindu victims).

The prosperous First World should have been dealing with the Muslim world with honesty, goodwill and assistance - rather than with the mix of denial, neglect, hostility, malignant interference and sustained violence that have helped cause this horrendous and continuing "Muslim Holocaust."

Of course, ignoring massive human disasters such as this will simply yield more of the same. A humane future will require truth, peace and reconciliation.

—DR. GIDEON POLYA,
29 Dwyer Street, Macleod,
Melbourne, Victoria 3085,
Australia

Banning cell phones in schools

THERE are reports that the Department of Education is going to ban mobile phones in schools purportedly to prevent gambling among students.

A cell phone is used by students to communicate with friends and family. It is a learning tool which has to be maximized by educators. If it is exploited for gambling by students in exclusive private schools, why deny the majority of our disciplined students the right to use it for communication, learning and harmless entertainment?

The role of cell phone in enhancing human productivity is very much recognized today. By banning them in schools, DepEd is restricting teachers and school administrators from teaching students the right way of using this technology.

DepEd's solution to the gambling problem is simplistic, not creative and irresponsible. It is the exact opposite of its mandate to nurture and guide young learners to be responsible individuals. It sends the wrong message to students that schools are divorced from the real world where use of cell phones is pervasive and, most of the time, a necessity.

Every innovative technology, like the television and the Internet, can either widen or debilitate the learning potential of children. Cell phones, too, can be used as a tool for learning or for anti-social deeds, like gambling. DepEd never banned TV or the Internet in schools despite studies showing their negative effect on the reading skills of students. Why ban cell phones when its pedagogic role can be maximized in schools?

If DepEd wants solid proof about the effectivity of cell phones as a tool for communication and learning, it only needs to remember that Ms Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo assumed the presidency in 2001 through a spontaneous gathering of people in EDSA, which was facilitated by texting.

—RAYMOND PALATINO
Vice President,
Anak ng Bayan Youth Party
42-B Agno St.,
Brgy. Dona Josefa QC

Spain's pullout from Iraq was a campaign promise

THIS is in response to Belinda Olivares-Cunanan's remark about the New York Times' commentary regarding the pullout of Spanish troops from Iraq. To set the record straight, Ms Olivares-Cunanan should be reminded that the pullout was a commitment made by the present administration before during the election campaign (before it was voted into power) to the Spanish voters, the majority of whom were—and still are—against the Iraq war. When the previous administration (the incumbent during the campaign) tried to shift the blame for the bombing to the local terrorists despite contrary evidence, the Spanish voters "punished" it in the polls.

Of course, I fully support President Macapagal-Arroyo's decision to pull out. The Bush administration is, after all, only more interested in keeping the pseudo "broad coalition" image for its Iraq invasion, a thrust primarily designed for domestic consumption (translation: November election). George W. Bush will therefore do anything to keep the coalition from breaking up and from exposing the Iraq war for what it really is.

—YURI SINGIDAS
New Jersey, USA

IF you have any complaints, grievances or suggestions about the treatment of news and photos by the Inquirer, you may write to the Readers' Advocate, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue, corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, City of Makati or send a fax to Nos. 897-4793, 897-4794, or e-mail readersadvocate@ inquirer.com.ph

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INQBOX

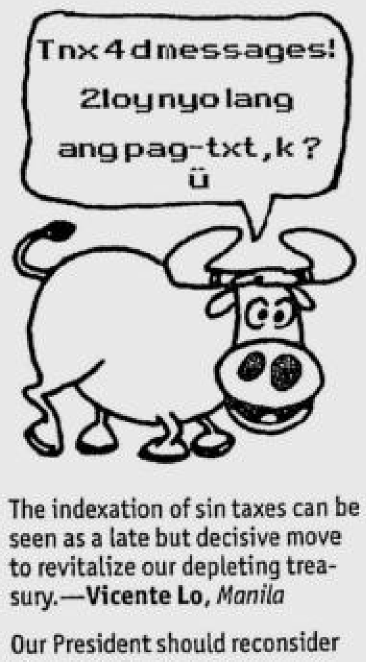
Dear Readers, Text us your comments, suggestions and views on today's news or how it was delivered. Tell us about the news you are interested in and the things you want improved in your favorite newspaper. Text INQUIRER <section keyword> name/city/message and send to 283 (Smart) or 2207 (Globe). The section keywords are indicated in the logo of each section.

News and Opinion

Until now, there are no weapons of mass destruction found in Iraq. The US went to Iraq to destroy things, then re-build.—**Mikaela**, *Calamba City*

US official Joseph Mussomeli asked if RP can be trusted again? He is speaking as if the US can be trusted again by the international community!—**Dennis Zaballero**, *San Pedro*

I read your report regarding the US ship discharging human waste into our ports. All I can say is it is degrading!—**Jaypee Parreño**, *Davao*


Tnx 4 d messages!
2loy nyo lang
ang pag-txt, k?
ü

The indexation of sin taxes can be seen as a late but decisive move to revitalize our depleting treasury.—**Vicente Lo**, *Manila*

Our President should reconsider imposing the new taxes.
It will greatly affect the common people.—**Joselyn Sy Chuan**, *Olongapo City*

Your news serves as updated, nonsense reference.—**Roselle Sevilla**, *Caloocan*

We are almost about to end the year 2004 but the headlines are still the same. When can we have GOOD NEWS?—**Paul Ganaban**, *Bacolod*

There are two major reasons why I read the Inquirer: Conrado de Quiros and Randy David. They inspire the nation.—**Arvin M. Malabanan**, *Batangas City*

Very good and in-depth views.—**Reynald Ryan Barrion**, *Makati City*

Inquirer is my favorite newspaper. I like reading Youngblood.—**Janice Ralar**, *Pasig*

I enjoy reading the Youngblood features. It gives younger generations the chance to express themselves and perhaps inspire others.—**Marsha M. Bagnol**, *Cebu City*

Metro

That picture of students in Pasig City studying by candlelight during daytime was quite disturbing.—**Norman Villamayor**, *Mandaluyong*

Across the Nation

Most items are history. They should not be more than two days old.—**Ramon**, *Dumaguete*

Our mayor is Zoilito Santiago. Joaquin was our former mayor.—**Ruth Mendiola**, *Obando*

Why is Inquirer ignoring the Ateneo de Davao union strike? It is an ongoing issue but no one is covering it? Ano ito news blackout?—**Mike**, *Davao*

We've run two stories about it.—Ed.

Business

The people that you feature in rags to riches stories who started out as nobody but became somebody—inspire me.—**Chique dela Fuente**, *Cavite*

I now have my own company—thanks to PDI! I got all the ideas from constantly reading the Business section.—**Haezl Vargas**, *Zamboanga*

InfoTech

Very good, especially on new technology.—**Jay Orbeso**, *Makati*

2BU

I love that there are themes now to your youth section. When I was in high school, 2bU was still new and finding its (direction).—**Tina Pastelero**, *Q.C.*

Good work but please feature more about music.—**Nestor Tio**, *Cebu*

Saturday Special

I hope you can provide a weekly column all about animals and pets and how to take care of them.—**Daisy Reyes**, *Tayabas, Quezon*

Entertainment

Why should Kris feel libeled when she announces to the world every sordid detail of her life?—**Alina Lazo**, *Victorias City*

This section captures all my interests concerning entertainment. It is the reason I always buy your newspaper everyday. :) Thank you!—**Krista Lazaro, Paco**, *Manila*

Saturday Super

Lust Super is hot!—**Erick Rocamora**, *Makati*

Greed Super is a lifestyle not for the faint-hearted.—**Maricar Torres**, *Malabon*

Lust Super is outrageous and fun!—**Lito Arteta**, *Q.C.*

Lust Super keeps me goin and updated with the rocking parties in the country! Damn this is the best!—**Jeng de la Fuente**, *Malate, Manila*

Lust, you don't know the consequences of what you're doing!—**Tim Yap**, *Makati*

Sports

Yeah, badminton is in. Not just in Manila or Luzon. What about us down here in Zamboanga? We also deserve Inquirer Badminton supplements.—**Oliver Tan**, *Zamboanga City*

Please ask Al Mendoza if he can write about his interview with Bobby Fischer on Sicogon Island. Thank you!—**Vince Francisco**, *Parañaque*

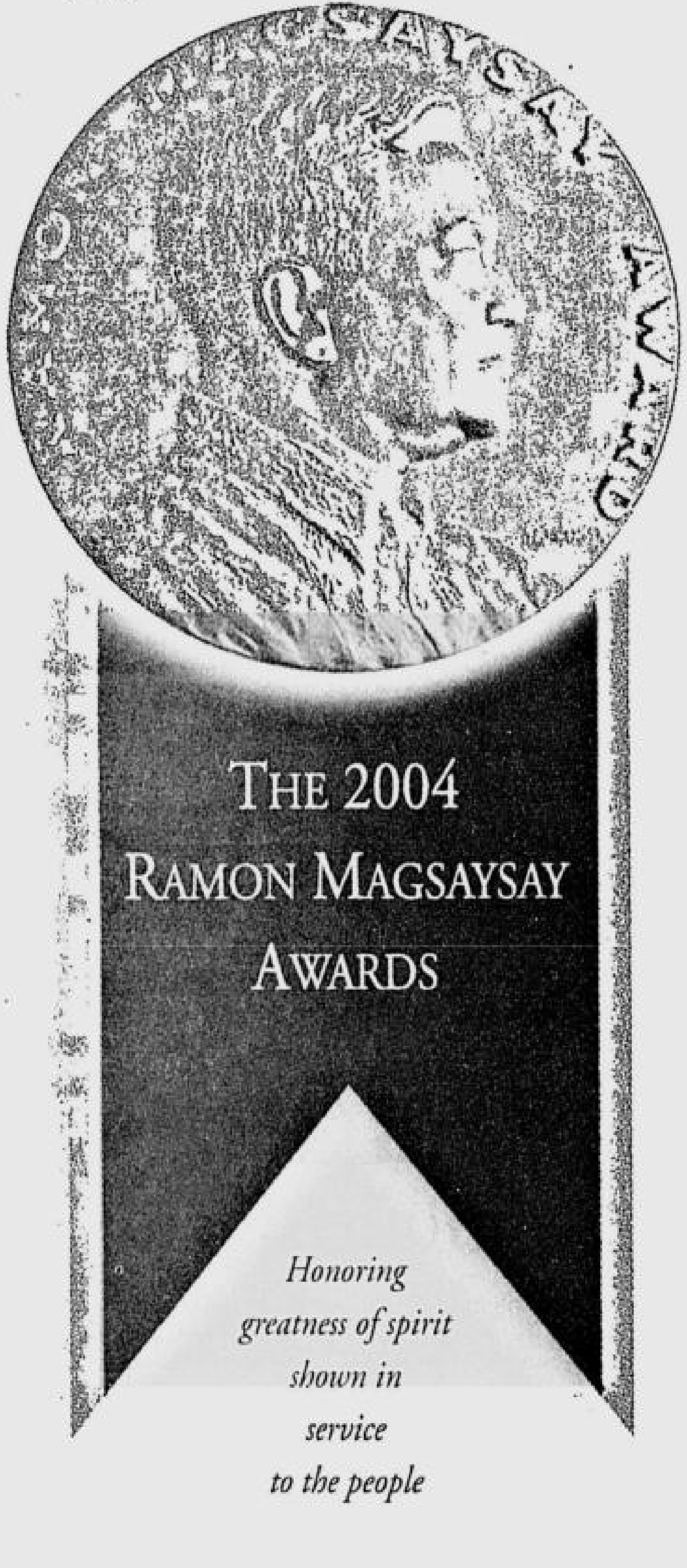
The PASA officials just don't know what talent means. They only know their ego. We should praise our athletes! Not expect them to apologize!—**Ramel Tabug**, *Manila*

I hope the Sports section would feature ex-WBF welterweight champion William Magahin. His sob story can well serve as a lesson to other boxers.—**Ricky Vidal**, *Iloilo City*

I feel sorry for Larry Fonacier. I will be missing a player who always gives you 100%. I hope he can make a comeback naman.—**Gary Teh**, *Manila*

Blue Eagles have always played 100%. This season, they will play 110% because they are inspired by Larry Fonacier.—**Al Yu**, *Q.C.*

TRANSFORMING ASIA BY THE FORCE OF THEIR CONVICTIONS



THE 2004
RAMON MAGSAYSAY
AWARDS

Honoring
greatness of spirit
shown in
service
to the people

RESTORING FAITH IN PUBLIC GOVERNANCE

HAYDEE YORAC
PHILIPPINES

2004 AWARDEE *for*
GOVERNMENT SERVICE

In a political climate where serving in government is generally a thankless task, Haydee Yorac has repeatedly answered the call to serve. More significantly she has chosen to serve in institutions where the pervasive public perception was that it would be virtually impossible to achieve credible results– the Commission on Elections, the National Unification Commission, and the Presidential Commission on Good Government. To each of her appointed tasks in these collegial bodies as Commissioner or Chairman, Yorac has brought a principled yet pragmatic approach, blending outspoken honesty and fearless incorruptibility with legal competence and a willingness to find practicable, but fair, solutions. Seemingly impossible results have marked her tenure in such diverse assignments: peaceful and credible elections in traditional "hotspots", a blueprint for the peace process that continues to guide current efforts, and a remarkable record of recovery of the Marcos ill-gotten wealth. Equally important, Yorac's work and personal convictions have given her countrymen a fresh breath of hope in their public institutions and public servants.

The Foundation recognizes *"her building the people's confidence in government through service of exceptional integrity and rigor, and her unwavering pursuit of the rule of law in the Philippines."*

CONFRONTING THE TRUTH TO SAVE LIVES

JIANG YANYONG
CHINA

2004 AWARDEE *for*
PUBLIC SERVICE

A skillful surgeon, Dr. Jiang Yanyong was long regarded as a brave doctor as well, having built a reputation for taking the most difficult cases as a military doctor in China. In early 2003, as the deadly SARS disease spread from Guangdong to Hongkong and beyond, Dr. Jiang learned of the alarming numbers of SARS cases and deaths in Beijing, and how these were grossly understated in official government reporting; thus, no systematic efforts were being taken to prevent its further spread and to treat SARS victims correctly. As the threat of an epidemic rapidly escalated, Dr. Jiang put all the facts together and urged his colleagues, unsuccessfully, to report the truth. At great personal risk, he released a signed letter revealing the true figures. Subsequent corroboration of his revelations led to quick and decisive action by the Chinese authorities: accountable officials were fired, a massive public health campaign was carried out, tight monitoring was put in place, and by July 2003 the deadly virus was contained.

The Foundation recognizes *"his brave stand for truth in China, spurring life-saving measures to confront and contain the deadly threat of SARS."*

NURTURING ENLIGHTENED CITIZENS

ABDULLAH ABU SAYEED
BANGLADESH

2004 AWARDEE *for*
JOURNALISM, LITERATURE
and CREATIVE
COMMUNICATION ARTS

A teacher and man of literature, Abdullah Abu Sayeed is one who believes that an enlightened society requires enlightened citizens. To this end he founded *Bishwo Shahitto Kendro* (BSK) or the World Literature Centre in 1978 and launched a systematic reading program for high school, college and university students to introduce them to the world's great literature. This program now operates through five hundred *Kendro* branches in fifty-four districts throughout Bangladesh, with hundreds of thousands of graduates. *Kendro* also brings reading opportunities directly to the people through bookmobiles that make stops at over two hundred locations in four cities. Nearly twenty thousand readers have become members of these mobile libraries. The indefatigable Sayeed continues to enlarge *Kendro's* resources with programs in the arts, a film and music library; publishing 250 new volumes of great Bengal literature is now a project in process. Believing that literature imparts both wisdom and humane values, he dreams of "enriched generations" to come.

The Foundation recognizes *"his cultivating in the youth of Bangladesh a love for literature and its humanizing values through reading great books of Bengal and the world."*

MODELING THE WAY TO RURAL PROSPERITY

PRAYONG RONNARONG
THAILAND

2004 AWARDEE *for*
COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

Rubber prices collapsed in the late 60s, causing economic upheaval for Prayong Ronnarong and other rubber farmers like him in Mairieng, a poor sub-district in southern Thailand. After two decades of hardship, Prayong initiated village discussions and fact-finding visits on how to break the cycle of their poverty. In the next ten years he led the Mairieng Farmers Group who put up their own pararubber processing factory, found markets in Bangkok, and most importantly, put in place a disciplined community learning process. Through this, the group evolved a highly successful community-owned enterprise, pioneered networking agreements with other villages, and undertook with other farmers in the province extensive data-gathering and analysis to produce the first-ever Thai Pararubber Strategic Plan. Now the communities Prayong and his Mairieng Center have helped are empowered by their fact-based community master plans, their livelihood programs, and new-found confidence in their ability to manage their own enterprises. Now, too, the Thai government has adopted the Mairieng model to promote village industries nationwide.

The Foundation recognizes *"his leading fellow-farmers in Thailand in demonstrating that self-reliant local enterprises supported by active community learning are the path to rural prosperity."*

ADVANCING THE CAUSE OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

BENJAMIN ABADIANO
PHILIPPINES

2004 AWARDEE *for*
EMERGENT LEADERSHIP

A life-changing immersion in a mountain community while a student set the direction for Benjamin Abadiano's personal mission -- to assist in the development of indigenous peoples in upland Philippines. At age 25, he volunteered to work among the Mangyan in upland Mindoro Oriental and stayed on, still as a volunteer, for the next nine years. During this time, he created a literacy program and built a full-blown school from scratch; over the years and with his entrepreneurial determination the *Tugdaan* ("Seedbed") Center graduated hundreds of Mangyans, built up a Mangyan faculty, and now thrives despite his absence. Moving on to restore communities destroyed by the war in Mindanao, Abadiano remained focused on his life-commitment: beyond his laudable work in building "sanctuaries of peace" he has joined hands with others to create a culture-based education program for the island's indigenous peoples, the Lumad. Called *ILAWAN*, or "light-bearer", he hopes the program will foster in others the kind of volunteerism which has brought so much meaning to his young life.

The Foundation recognizes *"his steadfast commitment to indigenous Filipinos and their hopes for peace and a better life consonant with their distinctive tradition and hallowed ways of life."*

DISMANTLING THE STRUCTURES OF PREJUDICE

The armed standoff between India and Pakistan has endured for more than fifty years, bringing with it four outright wars and continuing upheaval. Today, both sides boast nuclear weapons and the stakes are global. The problem seems intractable. But Ibn Abdur Rehman of Pakistan and Laxminarayan Ramdas of India believe there is hope. As leaders of the Pakistan-India People's Forum for Peace and Democracy (PIPFPD), they are building popular support for peace on both sides of the border.

Laxminarayan Ramdas began and completed his professional career as a soldier. Rising from command to command, he was named chief of India's navy in 1990. His long military experience made him intimately familiar with the limitations of military solutions to political problems. This led him, after his retirement from the service, to espouse peace advocacy and to assume a leadership role as founding vice-chair, then chair, of the India branch of the PIPFPD. India's explosion of a test atomic bomb moved Ramdas to actively pursue the anti-nuclear cause, warning Indians and Pakistanis alike about the naivete of nuclear deterrence and speaking publicly against the path of "super-violence". He has continued to divide his time between campaigning extensively for nuclear disarmament and promoting PIPFPD's people-to-people dialogues and other peace interventions.

The Foundation recognizes *"his reaching across a hostile border to nurture a citizen-based consensus for peace between India and Pakistan."*

LAXMINARAYAN RAMDAS
INDIA

IBN ABDUR REHMAN
PAKISTAN

2004 AWARDEES *for* PEACE and INTERNATIONAL UNDERSTANDING

Initially trained in physics, Ibn Abdur Rehman found his vocation in journalism. Rising from post to post at leading Pakistani publications, he became chief editor of the *Pakistan Times* in 1989. Under pressure for criticizing the government, he left the *Times* in 1993; a year later he joined twenty-four like-minded Indians and Pakistanis to begin a public dialogue for reconciliation and peace through the PIPFPD. For Rehman, the Forum's peace initiative grew naturally from his work as a much-respected human rights advocate and long-time director of the Pakistan Human Rights Commission. In this role and as a journalist he exposed systemic violations of the rights of women, children, workers, and minorities in his country, often at considerable personal risk and sacrifice. Lending his considerable credibility as a champion of human rights and democracy to the cause of cross-border peace, he guided the work of the Pakistan branch of the PIPFPD as its founding chair for nearly a decade and continues in a leadership role on its executive committee.

The Foundation recognizes *"his reaching across a hostile border to nurture a citizen-based consensus for peace between Pakistan and India."*

RAMON
MAGSAYSAY
AWARD
FOUNDATION

The Ramon Magsaysay Award honors individuals whose life and work are characterized by selfless service which impacts the lives of the greater many -- the same ideals and achievements for which President Ramon Magsaysay is remembered.
Presented annually since 1958, the Magsaysay Award has become one of the world's premier distinctions.

The public is cordially invited to meet the 2004 Ramon Magsaysay Awardees at the Awards Presentation Ceremonies, to be held at 4:30 P.M. on August 31, 2004 at the Main Theater, Cultural Center of the Philippines, Roxas Boulevard, Manila

Ramon Magsaysay Center, 1680 Roxas Boulevard, Manila, Philippines http://www.rmaf.org.ph

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'Jueteng' linked to radioman's slay

By Cristina Arzadon
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

LAOAG CITY—Police are looking at slain broadcaster Roger (not Robert as earlier reported) Mariano's harsh commentaries on "jueteng" as one of the possible reasons he was murdered Saturday night in San Nicolas town.

The other two possible motives were the murder case where Mariano was charged and later cleared as a principal suspect in 1999 and the supposed irregularities in the Ilocos Norte Cooperative which he planned to expose in his nightly radio program, police said.

Director General Hermogenes Ebdane, Philippine National Police chief, arrived here on Monday to personally look into the case of Mariano, who was gunned down shortly after he ended his program on dzJC station here.

Ebdane ordered the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group to handle the investigation through a task force that the PNP had set up.

He said President Macapagal-Arroyo also ordered him to look into the murder. "The President expressed her deep sadness over the latest killing of a mediaman. She wants us to do everything we can to minimize the attacks against the press," Ebdane said.

After a closed-door briefing with Senior Supt. Rolando Rabara, Ilocos police director, Ebdane proceeded to San Nicolas where Mariano was waylaid while heading home in his motorcyle.

Mariano was found slumped on a national road while his motorcycle plowed into a nearby rice field a few meters from his body.

Rabara said he had asked dzJC station manager Diomedez Lorenzo to compile and produce the recorded tapes of Mariano's popular radio program "Roger Mariano in Action" to help piece together information that could lead the police to the murder's solution.

Before he was gunned down, Mariano was said to have told his media colleagues that he got hold of "some documents" which he intended to expose yesterday on his program.

Mariano's belt bag, which contained various tapes, documents and diskettes, was said to have been seen by a reporter moments after he was killed.

ROUNDUP

Mary's hands stolen

BACOLOD CITY—The police are looking into the theft at St. Mary Magdalene Parish in Hinigaran town, Negros Occidental last July 20 where the head and two hands of the municipality's patron saint were stolen. Police said the thief detached the wooden grills at the back of the church on Rizal Street, Hinigaran. Senior Insp. Placido Composa, Hinigaran police chief, said it was easy for the thief to get inside the church due to an ongoing renovation. He said no other valuable was taken except for the hands and head of the image of St. Mary Magdalene, which was displayed on the altar. Composa said the stolen items were made of fiberglass and were worth P50,000. *Carla P. Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Militiaman slain

BACOLOD CITY—A militiaman was killed in an encounter on July 22 between government forces and suspected communist guerrillas in Sipalay City, Negros Occidental. The military report identified the fatality as Regie Pasuelme, 33, of Sipalay and a member of the Civilian Armed Forces Geographical Unit. About 30 soldiers belonging to the 61st Infantry Battalion based in Cauayan town chanced upon 20 suspected members of the New People's Army at Sitio Cagay, Barangay Camindangan, Sipalay. The rebels retreated after about 20 minutes of gunfight.
Carla P. Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau

Another PNP exec buried

CALAPAN CITY—Senior Supt. Muslim Jose Jaymalin, former Calapan City chief of police and operations director of the Oriental Mindoro police, was buried last July 31 at the Catholic cemetery in Barangay Suqui here. His jeep collided with a truck in Imus, Cavite, last July 25 while he was on his way to Mindoro for the interment of Supt. Rodrigo Foja. His body was first brought to Camp Crame where he worked before it was brought to the PNP headquarters in Calapan City. During his stint in Mindoro, Jaymalin had been active in the government's anti-insurgency operations in the 1980s.
Madonna T. Virola, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

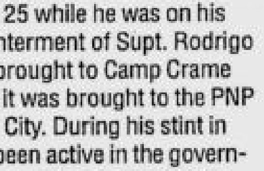
Bank heist in Bataan

DINALUPIHAN, Bataan—Robbers took more than P700,000 from the Zambales Rural Bank branch in Barangay San Ramon here last week. Venus Valencia, branch manager, told police the suspects entered the bank by destroying its roof. The robbers, police said, used acetylene torch in opening the bank vault as shown by hand gloves and other welding materials left inside the bank. Investigators placed the time of the robbery between 5 p.m. on July 28 and 7:45 a.m. on July 29.
Greg Refraccion, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Life term for robber

BAGUIO CITY—A judge last week sentenced a man to life imprisonment after he was found guilty of robbing and killing a police informant here three years ago. Judge Ruben Ayson of the Baguio City Regional Trial Court also ordered Romeo Yag-as to pay the family of Philip Malicdan Jr., an informant of the National Bureau of Investigation, P10 million in damages and unearned income. Yag-as and two other men were accused of robbing the Malicdan family in Quezon Hill here on July 13, 2001. Taken from the Malicdans were two mobile phones, a Canon camera and P11,300 in cash. Malicdan was killed in a gunfight with Yag-as' companions, Sonny Bitao and Ben Ventura. Bitao was convicted of robbery and homicide charges in 2003 while Ventura remains at large. *Hazel Calventas and Kathleen Taag, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Electricity back in Samal



DAVAO CITY—The Davao del Norte Electric Cooperative (Daneco) has finally restored power to the Island Garden City of Samal (Igacos) after it suffered a power outage that lasted for more than two weeks. Igacos information officer Noel Daquioag said the repair of the damaged marine cable was finished at around 7:45 p.m. Thursday, resulting in the power restoration. Daquioag said Igacos residents lived without power for 16 days after the inter-island cargo vessel MV Moises allegedly dragged and destroyed the marine cable on July 14. Because of the power outage, the city lost a total of P20.8 million in potential income while the Daneco had to disburse P1.4 million to fix the damaged power line, he said. The city government also used part of its P10-million calamity fund to purchase a P2.5-million generator that provided power to the city hall, he said. Two days after the power cut, the city council convened and passed a resolution declaring Igacos in a state of calamity to allow Mayor Rogelio Antalan to use the calamity fund. *Anthony S. Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

BALANCING ACT

TOOTS SOBERANO/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

A worker tries to keep his balance in a jeep loaded with scrap materials which he helped collect around Baguio City, a job that barely makes ends meet for him.

Calapan judge appeals for new courtroom

CALAPAN CITY—The municipal trial court judge of this city is appealing for a new courtroom complaining of foul smell, rickety floors and termites in the 50-year-old building that the court is now using.

Judge Manolo Brotonel said his request for a new and what he described as presentable courtroom was supported by the Integrated Bar of the Philippines-Oriental Mindoro chapter and Calapeños who are aware of the new expensive city hall at Barangay Guinobatan. A new legislative building stands beside the new city hall.

"We note that the aged courtroom and the offices of the presiding judge and the staff are one of the busiest and most frequented offices in the old city hall as they are being used for official court transactions," Brotonel said in a two-page letter he wrote the Sangguniang Panlalawigan.

He said the courtroom is "the usual venue for wedding ceremonies—much more, the place where lawyers, litigants and witnesses assemble ... for daily court hearings."

New location

He suggested that the court branch instead occupy the "entire second floor of the recently constructed edifice located beside the old city hall facing the Calapan City Plaza, which was vacated by former Mayor Arnan Panaligan and his staff."

Brotonel further suggested that the present city library that occupies the second floor of the new building be relocated to the former Sangguniang Panlalawigan session hall which will have more space should the provincial board agree to vacate it.

He said this was in reaction to the petition of some students from the Jose Leido Memorial National High School who wanted the city library retained.

Brotonel, in another two-page letter to newly elected City Mayor Carlos Brucal, said he was grateful to city officials for a plan to build a grandiose hall of justice building.

But the judge said the plan's implementation was uncertain because the city's finances have been depleted. *Madonna T. Virola, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Suspected brains in killing of Antique doctor arrested

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—The alleged mastermind in the killing of a surgeon in Antique two years ago has been arrested in Cavite.

Policemen from the Anti-Illegal Drugs Special Operations Task Force (AIDSOTF) arrested Manuel "Boyet" Pulido II at about 3 p.m. on July 29 in Bagong Bayan, Salitran, Dasmariñas, in Cavite.

A warrant for his arrest was issued by Judge Monina Misajon of the municipal trial court in San Jose, Antique.

Pulido was brought to the AIDSOTF office in Camp Crame and would be transferred to Antique, said an AIDSOTF report to the Central Visayas police.

Pulido is facing a murder charge before Branch 11 of the Antique Regional Trial Court for the killing of Carlito Moleño.

Moleño, 42, was shot at close range with a 9-mm pistol on Feb. 5, 2002, as he was leaving the compound of the Angel Salazar Memorial District Hospital in San Jose. He died from a bullet that entered below his left ear.

Also charged were Ricardo Agapito and Hernan Labanon, the alleged gunman. Labanon was arrested a day after the shooting while Agapito remains at large.

Labanon confessed on Feb. 8, 2002 that he was hired by Pulido to kill Moleño for P500,000 because the doctor was trying to fire his wife Jocelyn-Abiera Pulido, as chief of the Pedro Gindap Municipal Hospital.

Labanon later retracted his statement, saying policemen tortured him to implicate Pulido.

CEBU CITY BUST

Cops' alleged theft of shabu probed

By Jhunnex Napallacan
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—The head of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) has ordered an investigation of a report attributed to a suspected drug courier that members of the Maritime Police stole two packs of shabu from him.

"That's a serious offense if proven true," said Director General Anselmo Avenido, head of the PDEA.

The Maritime Police of Central Visayas on Wednesday arrested Willy Abao Solon as he disembarked from MV Princess of the Universe at Pier 5 here.

The arresting team, led by PO3 Florito Banilad, declared it seized two packs of shabu weighing about 2 kilograms from Solon with a street value of about P2 million.

Solon told police he actually had with him four packs of shabu with each pack weighing about a kilogram each.

Solon is now detained at the Bagong Buhay Rehabilitation Center after he was charged with selling and illegal possession of 1,994 grams of shabu, a non-bailable offense under the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002.

Solon said the Maritime policemen pocketed the other two big packs.

Supt. Gaudencio Pagaling, head of the PDEA Central Visayas, said Solon made the allegation before PDEA agents who initially investigated the arrest of the drug suspect.

Pagaling said he was also surprised why Maritime police did not inform the regional PDEA of the operation.

Avenido said that under the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act, all law enforcement agencies are required to give pre-operation coordination with the PDEA in their drug operations.

Avenido said after the operation, there must be an inventory of the confiscated drugs to prevent the non-declaration of all these.

He said the inventory must be made in the presence of the media, prosecutor, representative of the local government unit and other officials.

Avenido, however, said Solon's allegation must be verified because based on police experience, most suspects would make up stories to destroy the credibility of the arresting officers.

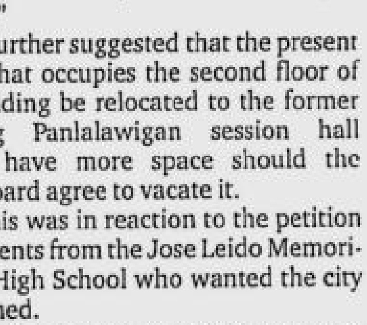
Senior Supt. Sales Zaragoza, chief of the Central Visayas Maritime Police, admitted the Maritime Police failed to coordinate with the PDEA. But he denied that the policemen stole two packs of shabu.

Zaragoza said they failed to coordinate with the PDEA because of lack of time to do so.

Zaragoza said the vessel arrived at 7 a.m., but his men learned about it only at around 6 a.m. He said he was informed of his men's operation in the afternoon of Wednesday.

Zaragoza said his office made the report to the regional PDEA on Wednesday night and they informed the media the following day.

2 years, 4 votes give barangay new captain



BACOLOD CITY—A village in Manapla town, Negros Occidental has a new barangay captain after a recount showed that the candidate, who lost by one vote, actually won by six votes in the synchronized barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan elections in July 2002.

Judge Evelyn Gengos of the Municipal Circuit Trial Court of EB Magalona-Manapla town declared William Bilbao winner over Leonardo Gayatin, incumbent village chief of Punta Salong.

In a resolution promulgated on Friday, Gengos said the recount showed that Bilbao defeated Gayatin by a margin of six votes.

Bilbao's lawyer, Irving Sedonio, said Gayatin has 10 days to appeal the decision or it will become final and executory.

Bilbao had filed a petition for recount against Gayatin, questioning the returns from three precincts in Punta Salong during the synchronized Barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan Elections on July 15, 2002.

The Board of Canvassers declared Gayatin winner as a tabulation of results showed that he won by a margin of only one vote with 752 votes and 751 for Bilbao.

Bilbao, however, filed a petition, claiming that there was an erroneous count of votes in Precincts 58-A, 61-A and 62-A.

In the resolution, Judge Gengos said that after the recount, it was "pristine clear" that Bilbao was the winner with 760 votes, with Gayatin having 754 votes. *Carla P. Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Burnham didn't clear AFP, court video shows

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shouting, "Sustained," indicating she was upholding the objection.

De Castro was later heard telling the court—"off the record"—that Burnham herself had referred to the alleged connivance between some military officers and the Abu Sayyaf in a book she wrote about her experiences as a hostage of the bandit group.

Less than two minutes

This prompted Pahimna to order the court stenographer not to record the subsequent exchanges between defense and prosecution lawyers.

The entire exchange among the lawyers did not even take two minutes of the roughly three-hour court proceeding.

Burnham was silent all throughout the exchange, looking in Pahimna's direction as if waiting for instructions.

The judge told reporters yesterday that she sustained the prosecution's objection to De Castro's question over the collusion issue because she had found it irrelevant.

She explained that Burnham was called as a witness to establish the participation of detained Abu Sayyaf members in the kidnapping of the American missionary, her husband Martin and 18 others.

Fidgety prosecutor

In her book, Burnham said that during their captivity, the hostages were told—she did not say by who—that Abu Sayyaf leader Abu Sabaya was "wheeling and dealing" with an AFP general over the ransom.

According to the book, Sabaya, who was later killed by soldiers, was willing to give the general 20 percent but the officer supposedly wanted 50 percent of the money.

Toward the end of the video showing yesterday, the DOJ's Reyes began to look fidgety, his eyes fixed on the lone image of Burnham on the screen of the small TV set sitting on the judge's table.

Defense lawyer Oliver Lozano had told the INQUIRER on Sunday that Burnham never answered the defense question about whether or not there was connivance between the military and the Abu Sayyaf.

But Pahimna expressed doubt about how Lozano could say that, saying Lozano had already left the courtroom by the time Burnham was asked the question.

Pahimna said Lozano was even cited in court for abandoning the proceedings.

Malacañang, which last week praised Burnham for her supposed statements purportedly clearing the military of charges of conniving with the Abu Sayyaf, was singing a different tune yesterday.

"The President would like to thank Gracia Burnham for her attendance in the proceedings," Ms Arroyo's spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said in a briefing.

In her statement last week, the President thanked Burnham, saying "her testimony upholds the integrity and uncommon valor of our Armed Forces."

Facing the media later, the DOJ prosecution team tried to save face while admitting that Burnham had given no testimony exonerating the military.

"There was no direct testimony from Gracia Burnham that there was no collusion. But just the same, there was no categorical statement that there was collusion," Chief State Prosecutor Jovencito Zuño said.

Senior State Prosecutor Leo Dacera and Reyes were with Zuño at the briefing. Nestor Lazaro, the state prosecutor who quoted Burnham as saying that there had been no collusion between the military and the bandits, was not present.

Zuño said Lazaro could not be contacted.

"That must be the basis of Nestor Lazaro when he said that Gracia Burnham cleared the military—that during the direct testimony, she had all the opportunity to say if there was collusion but she did not say anything about (it)," Zuño said.

Zuño said that during a pre-trial briefing, Burnham clearly told DOJ prosecutors that she had no direct knowledge of the alleged collusion.

"She told us categorically that she had no personal knowledge about any collusion between the military and the kidnappers," Zuño said.

Burnham was rescued from captivity in June 2002 during a military operation in which her husband and Filipina nurse Ediborа Yap were killed. *With reports from Philip Tubeza, Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and Alcuin Papa*

US sounds alarm on al-Qaida attacks

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would remain at yellow, or elevated, elsewhere in the United States.

The "high," or code-orange, threat level is the second highest in the government's five-stage terrorism alert system. It represents a "high risk of terrorist attacks."

The government's warning came four weeks before the Republican National Convention in New York, which will formally nominate President George W. Bush and which is expected to draw more than 30,000 people, including top government officials and Bush himself.

"We're not going to let threats or this kind of information turn us into Fortress America," Ridge said, despite the raised alert level. "We're going to keep on being America."

Ridge said there was no specific information pointing to an imminent attack, but The New York Times quoted unnamed federal officials as saying it would likely be in the "near term."

'Excruciating' details

A senior intelligence official described "excruciating detail" and meticulous planning "indicative of al-Qaida."

The official said the intelligence gathered from several sources indicated scouting had been done to identify security in and around these buildings; the flow of pedestrians; the best places for reconnaissance; how to make contact with employees who work in the buildings; construction of the buildings; traffic patterns; locations of hospitals and police departments; and which days of the week present less security at the buildings.

To illustrate the level of the intelligence, the official cited these examples of detail possible plotters had accumulated: midweek pedestrian traffic counts of 14 people per minute on each side of the street for a total of 28 people; that some explosives might not be hot enough to melt steel; and that the construction of some buildings might prevent them from falling down.

The official said he had not seen such extraordinary detail in his 24 years in intelligence work.

The US warning was based on a cache of recently obtained information, including photos, drawings and written documents.

Following the US warnings, the British government also said it was monitoring the "real and serious" threat from terrorism, but didn't warn of any specific risk.

Briefing reporters in New York, Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly said that starting Monday, trucks would be banned from the Manhattan-bound side of the Williamsburg Bridge, which connects Brooklyn and lower Manhattan.

Commercial vehicles also were banned from the inbound of the Holland Tunnel from New Jersey, among other measures.

In Newark, police set up metal fences surrounding the Prudential Plaza building, blocked off two city streets and toted assault rifles.

Echoes of 9/11

The United States has tagged al-Qaida as the mastermind behind the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon in Washington and New York by militants using hijacked commercial planes. About 3,000 people died in the attacks.

A US counterterrorism official said the threat information was based in large part on documentary evidence obtained by the Central Intelligence Agency in successful counterterrorist operations, working independently and in concert with other countries.

Ridge said it would be up to New York City officials to decide whether to move to the highest level, red. The city has remained on orange since the attacks of 9/11.

'Not usual chatter'

The threat potential remains through the Nov. 2 elections, Ridge said.

He said the government took the unprecedented step of naming particular buildings because of the level of specificity of the intelligence.

"This is not the usual chatter. This is multiple sources that involve extraordinary detail," Ridge said.

He said the government decided to notify the public because of the specificity of detail it had obtained.

"The quality of this intelligence, based on multiple reporting streams in multiple locations, is rarely seen, and it is alarming in both the amount and specificity of the information," Ridge said.

Ridge acknowledged that protecting these buildings, located in heavily populated areas, would require additional security measures, especially because thousands of cars and trucks travel through these cities daily.

Barricades, checkpoints

"Car and truck bombs are one of the most difficult tasks we have in the war on terror," Ridge said, adding that new security procedures were already being put in place.

An NYSE spokesperson declined comment on security, but increased measures since the Sept. 11 attacks have included barricades on all sides and checkpoints to enter the building.

A Citigroup spokesperson cited a company e-mail to employees that said they should expect to see tighter security at all of its New York buildings.

A spokesperson for Prudential said the company had increased its security before the threat.

A White House spokesperson, Erin Healy, said the intelligence on the threat was "very new, coming in during the last 72 hours."

Bush's 'final decision'

"The President made the final decision today agreeing with the recommendation of Secretary Ridge to go ahead and raise the threat level in these select areas," Healy said.

Referring to terrorists who are hostile to the United States, Ridge said, "Iconic economic targets are at the heart of their interest." He said workers at the specific buildings mentioned should get guidance from security officers at each site and remain alert as they go to work.

Intelligence officials said they believed al-Qaida associates had cased the targeted institutions repeatedly both before and since the 2001 attacks, collecting detailed information on everything from building security measures and architecture to pedestrian traffic, access points and nearby shops that could provide cover.

An official said the intelligence material gathered got down to details, such as the glass thickness of the buildings, when and how many security staff were on duty and the location of elevators and parking.

Test run

Officials involved with the investigation in New Jersey said suspects were found with blueprints of the Prudential site and may have conducted a "test run" for an attack in recent days.

The elevation of the threat level for the financial institutions was triggered by the recent arrest of a Pakistani computer engineer who may have been involved in al-Qaida communication efforts, The New York Times said.

His capture in Pakistan several weeks ago led the CIA to the rich lode of information that prompted the terror alert, according to senior US officials.

In Islamabad, Pakistan's information minister said Pakistani intelligence agents found plans for new attacks against the United States and Britain on a computer seized during the arrest of a senior al-Qaida suspect wanted for the 1998 twin US Embassy bombings in east Africa.

The plans were found in e-mails on the computer of Ahmed Khalfan Ghailani, a Tanzanian arrested July 25 after a 12-hour gun battle in the eastern city of Gujrat, Information Minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmed said.

"We got a few e-mails from Ghailani's computer about (plans for) attacks in the US and UK," he said.

Ahmed would not confirm whether the information was what prompted Ridge to issue his warning about a possible al-Qaida attack on prominent financial institutions in New York, Washington and Newark, New Jersey.

'Treasure trove'

The recently discovered documentary evidence had elevated the significance of other intelligence information gathered in recent weeks that had already been regarded as highly troubling, the officials said.

Much of that information had come from al-Qaida detainees in Afghanistan and Saudi Arabia, as well as Pakistan, and some had also pointed to a possible attack on financial institutions, they said.

The documents amounted to "a potential treasure trove," US officials said.

News of the warning boosted oil prices. Dealers said US oil prices struck a new 21-year peak, climbing close to $44 a barrel by late on Sunday. Most Asian stock markets fell, with Japan's Nikkei stock average down 0.7 percent by midday to 11,243.40.

The United States declared a national orange alert last December but cut it back to yellow, or "elevated," in January. *INQUIRER wires*

Groups defend pork barrel fund

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sonal one between Davide and businessman Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco.

"We will not allow our advocacy to be used in partisan politics. What started as a question of law became a question of allocation. We did not want to be a part of that," he said.

Technically, the constituents of party-list groups are those who voted for them. Because they are national in scope, their legislative agenda and projects also benefit even those who did not vote for them, according to Velarde.

In terms of filing bills, party-list representatives are even ahead of their counterparts from congressional districts. In the 11th and 12th Congress, party-list representatives had the least number of absences during plenary sessions and committee hearings.

"Maybe the waste of people's money can be attributed to not just members of the House not doing their jobs, whether party-list or district representatives. They're just sitting there the whole day. Then they waste people's money, right? It's not a question of party-list versus district representatives. It's the question of not doing their jobs," Akbayan Rep. Loretta Ann Rosales said.

Pork barrel

Like a district congressman, each party-list representative is entitled to P65 million a year in pork barrel called the Priority Development Assistance Fund (PDAF), which is released in two tranches.

The fund can be used for hard and soft projects. Hard projects involve the construction of structures, such as school buildings, water systems, roads and bridges, and flood control facilities. Soft projects include financial assistance to hospitals, institutions or organizations.

Contrary to public perception, pork barrel is not released directly to members of the House.

Kim Bernardo-Lokin, former representative of the Citizens' Battle Against Corruption (Cibac), said a congressman merely identified the hard and soft projects to be funded by the pork barrel.

The Department of Budget and Management releases the money to agencies, such as the Department of Public Works and Highways. Sometimes it takes six months to more than one year before a project is started, depending on the availability of funds.

The misconception that a legislator holds the purse for his or her pork barrel projects usually puts a congressman in a difficult situation.

Lokin recalled how barangay officials in Quezon City who had sought her assistance for the completion of a barangay hall got mad at her. It took a long time before the DPWH started the project out of Lokin's pork barrel allocation.

Sometimes, money for a particular barangay "gets lost" when the pork barrel released by the DBM to the bank accounts of local governments form part of their funds.

In this case, a congressman should be quick enough to call the attention of the mayor once he receives the notice of cash allocation from the DBM to ensure that the local government will use the pork barrel for the projects the congressman identified.

The perception that pork barrel is part of patronage politics is something that the party-list system wants to correct.

NPA support?

Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo said that when his group decided to make full use of its pork barrel in the rural areas, National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales accused it of aiding the New People's Army, the armed wing of the Communist Party of the Philippines.

Bayan Muna and its allied organizations, Gabriela and Anakpawis, denied channeling their pork barrel to finance the NPA.

Ocampo provided the INQUIRER with a long and thick list of Bayan Muna's hard and soft projects nationwide from 2001 to 2003, most of which had been funded and completed.

"They said that if we are channeling funds to the NPA then we are supporting the armed struggle. That is their thesis. But they have to prove that. Otherwise it remains an allegation," Ocampo said.

Bayan Muna had a total of 487 hard projects and 206 soft projects. Most of the hard projects were school buildings and classrooms, water systems and the construction and rehabilitation of multi-purpose buildings, roads and bridges and flood control facilities.

Mobile clinics

Bayan Muna has also funded innovative projects, such as mobile clinics, complete with X-ray machines, dental equipment and volunteer doctors. The projects are a big hit in remote communities.

The militant group also provides financial assistance to government hospitals for the treatment of the poor. The fund is being replenished every year.

In the City of San Fernando in Pampanga alone, Bayan Muna donated two classrooms to a neglected public school. The mayor, he said, appreciated the gesture that the local government decided to add more classrooms.

Despite numerous projects funded out of Bayan Muna's pork barrel, no signs saying these had been donated by the militant group can be seen.

"There were many signs, but during the election these were removed and replaced with posters of GMA (President Macapagal-Arroyo)," Ocampo said.

"For us, the community knows that we were responsible for the project and we're happy. That's our psychic compensation," he said.

Equally numerous are the hard projects funded by the pork barrel of Akbayan and Cibac.

Rosales and Lokin said the construction and renovation of multi-purpose buildings were the most requested projects of barangays.

Both party-list groups put money in the Tindahan ni Gloria, which provides goods for poor owners of *sari-sari* stores.

Rosales said Akbayan also used its pork barrel for medicines in government hospitals and facilitated the incorporation of computer knowledge programs in elementary schools in areas that have Akbayan chapters.

Lokin said Cibac provided scholarships to poor students in universities which had a long waiting list of potential beneficiaries.

In the case of the Association of Philippine Electric Cooperatives, Rep. Edgar Valdez said that aside from the construction of farm-to-market roads and school buildings, part of his pork barrel was used in the establishment of collection centers of electric cooperatives.

Incubators

Since Buhay is pro-life, it donated incubators and provided financial assistance to several government hospitals.

Buhay also provided financial assistance to the local governments of Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Tarlac and Rizal, where the bulk of their votes came from. It also gave development projects to Pangasinan and Malabon and IT (information technology) equipment to public schools.

Under the hard projects, Buhay allocated funds for the construction of multipurpose buildings, maintenance of roads and bridges, cleaning of rivers and repair of hospitals.

For the Partido ng Manggagawa, some of its pork barrel was spent on the construction of workers' development centers, mostly in Mindanao. It also provided P15 million for the construction of overpasses in accident-prone areas nationwide.

Bills

As a result, party-list projects augmented those already put up by their counterparts in the districts.

In terms of legislation, the party-list's record still needs improvement despite the long list of bills and resolutions they had introduced. Admittedly, it's a numbers game in Congress, and most of the bills filed by party-list congressmen hardly reached the third reading.

However, two legislative measures sponsored by Bayan Muna are now laws. These pertain to the trafficking of people and domestic violence.

Bayan Muna's first bill in 2001, the P125 across-the-board increase for workers, only reached the second reading because it was thumbed down by Malacañang.

Its most significant bill, which seeks to provide compensation for human rights victims during the Marcos regime, was watered down when it reached the third and final reading. It did not reach the bicameral committee as the 12th Congress already adjourned.

The Partido ng Manggagawa's six pro-labor bills were treated as reference materials for the Labor Code amendment but did not even reach the second reading.

Akbayan had proposed to criminalize the campaign permit activity of the NPA during the election campaign, while Buhay introduced a measure that would create special assistance centers for the physically disadvantaged.

Cibac filed bills providing for the creation of the National Independent Commission Against Corruption and the National Authority for Revenue Commission.

Lokin said all bills filed by Cibac would be refiled in the 13th Congress.

"That's one dilemma of not having the numbers but at least we struggled to argue it," Ocampo said.

He said he would have a hard time convincing the communist rebels to lay down their arms if Congress was not giving the party-list groups the opportunity to advance their causes.

"Give us a chance. Don't frustrate our efforts. Don't harass our people and give us the opportunity. Give us chairmanships of the committees. If the rebels see that we are succeeding in the parliamentary struggle, then I don't have to say anything. That's the argument," Ocampo said.

Amend party-list law

Party-list legislators agreed that amending the party-list law to fix "factory defects" and to make the party-list system operate under a parliamentary form of government would make it strong.

Excessive splintering is expected to continue if the three-seat cap is not removed or at least increased to six seats because of the failure to fill the 52 party-list seats in Congress over the past three party-list elections.

Mathematically, the fixed 2-percent ceiling has proved to be a formidable threshold, especially for undermanned and underfunded party-list groups. This was the reason a party-list group of overseas workers could not get even one seat in Congress.

Proposed amendments to remedy the flaws in the law reached the second reading in the 12th Congress but never reached plenary approval. The approved committee report extended to six the seats of party-list representatives.

Despite the flaws in the Philippine model, the party-list systems in other countries have had several positive outcomes.

"There is a potential strength if we come together. But sadly, we are still divided," Rosales said.

This exercise of choice can only be maximized if voters are able to gain access to adequate and balanced information so they can form their choices, she said.

The media are also to blame for the lack of information because they do not provide much space to party-list representatives and advocacies, according to Rosales.

"Give us more leeway. Remember that patronage politics is about 100 years old. We are only 6 years old. So give us a chance until 10 years. Four years more is not too much," she said.

2 Filipinos among Magsaysay awardees

From page A1

out in 1958, 36 have been won by the Philippines—29 individuals and seven institutions—the second highest number by any country, next only to India, which now has 42. There are now a total of 236 awardees.

This year's awardees will each receive a certificate, a medallion bearing the likeness of the late Philippine President Ramon Magsaysay in whose honor the award was established, and a cash prize of $50,000 (P2.8 million).

Unwavering

"Ms Yorac is being recognized for her building the people's confidence in government through service of exceptional integrity and rigor, and her unwavering pursuit of the rule of law in the Philippines," the foundation said yesterday in a statement.

Abadiano, 41, helped the Alangan Mangyan people of Mindoro build their dream school in the nine years that he worked with them, starting in 1988. True to form, he has announced that he is not taking a single cent of the cash award for himself.

Jiang, a retired military doctor, is being cited for "his brave stand for truth in China, spurring life-saving measures to confront and contain the deadly threat of SARS."

Prayong led fellow farmers "in demonstrating that self-reliant local enterprises, supported by active community learning, are the path to rural prosperity."

Sayeed is receiving the award for "his cultivating in the youth of Bangladesh a love for literature and its humanizing values through exposure to the great books of Bengal and the world."

Ramdas and Rehman are leaders of the Pakistan-India People's Forum for Peace and Democracy. Ramdas, former chief of his country's navy, and Rehman, a journalist and human rights advocate, are being recognized for "their reaching across a hostile border to nurture a citizen-based consensus for peace."

The awardees will speak in a series of public lectures to be held at the Ramon Magsaysay Center from Aug. 26 to Sept. 1.

As PCGG chief, Yorac, 63, is the latest to head the government's efforts to recover the ill-gotten Marcos wealth. She is also well remembered for her stint as Commission on Elections commissioner from 1986 to 1993. In 1992, she was the INQUIRER's "Filipino of the Year."

The feisty and outspoken lawyer was appointed to the Comelec after the Marcos dictatorship was toppled in the first Edsa "people power" revolt in 1986. For a few months after the uprising, she was a member of the Presidential Committee on Human Rights.

She made a bid for the Senate in 1998, but lost. In July 2001, shortly after the ouster of President Joseph Estrada, she was appointed PCGG chair

Early last year, Yorac came close to death. She suffered a stroke in January and, weeks later, underwent surgery for a cancerous ovarian growth. In May of the same year, she spent time in a hospital intensive care unit for severe pneumonia and kidney malfunction. Miraculously, she recovered and resumed working at home in July. Then she reported back to the PCGG office in September.

She is currently in the United States for a medical checkup and is due back on Aug. 26—just in time for the formal RMA presentation ceremonies on Aug. 31 at the Cultural Center of the Philippines.

Unconditional

Abadiano told the INQUIRER that he was giving all of his cash prize "to the community—$30,000 to a scholarship grant for indigenous college students. The first two years will have the Alangan Mangyans as beneficiaries, then it will [be extended] to other tribes and communities all over the Philippines."

With the rest of the money, Abadiano said, he would start a center for volunteerism, side by side with a center for grass-roots leadership and with special focus on the IPs (indigenous peoples), particularly the Alangan Mangyans.

"This is a recognition not for myself but more for the community leaders who have shared with me their dreams and visions for their communities and for the children," he stressed. "Their vision became my guide in setting up the Tugdaan program (a Mangyan school in Mindoro, now called the Tugdaan Center for Human and Environmental Development). It is they who should be recognized."

Abadiano, a native of Cagayan de Oro City, also cited the commitment of Sr. Victricia Pascasio of the Holy Spirit Mission. "She didn't belong to the community, but she was [always] there to support the initiatives."

The nun trusted him with the work "immediately," he said, though he did not have the necessary experience.

"Until now, no one has asked for my credentials." (He has a degree in sociology from the Xavier University in Cagayan de Oro).

In 1997, he left Mindoro to enter a Jesuit seminary in Manila. He also left the seminary eventually to work with Tabang Mindanaw, coordinating programs for Christian, Muslim and Manobo war victims. But he has remained a consultant of the Tugdaan center.

The people with whom Abadiano has worked have one thing to say: He deserves the award.

"He has a unique leadership style. He is innovative, a risk-taker," said Joy Bae, administrative officer of the Mangyan Mission. "He is process-oriented, sensitive."

Added Emily Catapang, coordinator of the Mangyan Heritage Center: "He is charismatic. The Mangyans and his fellow workers liked him instantly."

Palace remark on oil prices irks watchdog

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uninformed.

Ricardo Saludo, deputy presidential spokesperson, belittled yesterday a consumer group's claim that oil companies should have kept prices stable up to the end of the month because of "over-recovery" in previous pump price adjustments.

"The (Oil Price Watch) says it has its own computation of how much oil prices should be. We (Malacañang) are not engaged in a guessing game with the oil companies because all we can tell them is to hold off any price increase as long as we can," Saludo said in Filipino.

Raul T. Concepcion, chair of Consumer and Oil Price Watch, said Saludo was "talking about something that he doesn't know. I will not quarrel with him because he's the Malacañang spokesperson."

Concepcion, who has been funding a lonely campaign to stop oil companies from unduly raising their prices, said he based his computations only on the pass-on cost or the changes in the price of crude and the foreign exchange rate regardless of the margins being charged by oil companies.

He said Saludo "could have been *pikon* (overly sensitive)" from all the criticism he had been getting for painting a rosy picture of the economy despite rising unemployment, inflation and interest rates.

No need

Concepcion said there was no need to adjust prices for at least 30 days because the series of price adjustments made by the oil companies the past few months had more than covered the earlier rise in world crude oil prices.

Since January, oil firms have raised the prices of gasoline seven times (for a cumulative total of between P4.70 and P4.81 per liter) and of diesel six times (for a total of between P3.50 and P3.65 per liter).

The latest round of increases came Monday. Oil refiner Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. and finished products importers Caltex Philippines Inc., Eastern Petroleum Corp. and Seaoil Petroleum Corp. raised the prices of gasoline and diesel by 50 centavos a liter.

Total (Philippines) Corp. and Flying V raised the pump prices of gasoline and diesel by 50 centavos a liter at 12:01 a.m. today. Like its competitors in the oil market, Total cited escalating prices in the world market for the increase.

Saludo said the government was powerless in reining in rising fuel prices. "There is really nothing we can do. All we can do is try our best to cut our use of petroleum products," he said on radio dzRB.

Under fire

Malacañang has been under fire from consumer groups for its reluctance to make an independent assessment on whether the oil companies have been overcharging their customers.

Consumer groups said that while the oil firms were operating in a deregulated market, the government still had the obligation to the public to keep the companies from abusing their oligopoly powers.

Concepcion said that even the Department of Energy acknowledged an over-recovery on the part of the oil companies in the month of July based on world crude oil prices from May to June.

He said the DOE used this as justification for the government's move to raise tariffs on oil products to 5 percent.

Malacañang had justified the tariff hike as well-timed for late last month because the oil companies could absorb the additional import duties without adjusting domestic prices.

Concepcion said the government could not declare over-recovery or under-recovery because it would be risking a criminal suit from the oil companies. "The energy secretary is prevented from commenting under a deregulated environment," he said.

Russian oil firm

Prices in the world market surged to 21-year highs on July 29, as threats of terrorist attacks on Middle East oil installations persisted.

Also, the looming collapse of Russian oil firm Yukos has put pressure on international crude prices. The company accounts for about 20 percent of Russia's crude supply and is the world's second largest crude producer, next to Saudi Arabia.

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MEGALOTTO 6/45
3 21 30 32 36 40

Marine sarge gets life for 'Baron' slay

By Leila B. Salaverria and Christian V. Esguerra

MIXED emotions greeted the decision of a regional trial court yesterday that found guilty three people accused of killing Baron Alexander Cervantes, self-proclaimed spokesperson of the Young Officer's Union, on New Year's eve in 2001.

While glad that the gunman, former Marine Sgt. Joseph Mostrales, was sentenced to 20 to 40 years imprisonment, and his two accomplices, Jaime Centeno and Orlando Torres, given the maximum term of 14 years and one day, Baron's family and lawyer Leonard de Vera said they would have been happier had police Supt. Rafael Cardeño been caught and sentenced along with the three.

Cardeño remains at large, nearly three years after allegedly masterminding the killing. Santiago Camacho, a former Land Transportation Office employee who allegedly set up the New Year's Eve murder, is also missing.

Cervantes was killed with a single gunshot wound on the head outside the Jubileaum Drugstore on Times Street. Mostrales was identified by an eyewitness as the gunman.

"A shot in the head, point blank from behind, is beyond doubt treachery. The court finds accused Mostrales guilty of murder as principal by direct participation," read the decision penned by Judge Bonifacio Sanz of the Las Piñas Regional Trial Court.

Centeno and Torres were only considered accomplices because they were not aware of the plan and its target and thus given lighter sentences, the court said.

The three were also ordered to pay the Cervantes family P393,958 in damages.

The decision was handed down at the National Bilibid Prison, where Mostrales had been detained after he was convicted earlier for a kidnapping charge.

BARON CERVANTES

RAFAEL CARDEÑO

"Justice has been served as far as we are concerned," said Roque, Cervantes' father.

"However, the masterminds are still out there and we would be happier and more at peace if they are caught," he added.

Roque, with his wife Carolina and son Lloyd, also appealed to the authorities to step up their hunt for Cardeño and Camacho.

The family also offered a P1 million reward for information that would lead to their arrest.

Tight security measures for Mostrales, Torres and Centeno were also requested so they would be able to stand as witnesses against Cardeño and Camacho, De Vera said.

Three others implicated in the case, Roland Patinio, Eugene Radam and Diosdado Santos, had all been killed, he added.

In making the decision, Judge Maceda also gave weight to the extrajudicial confessions executed by the three suspects, even though the three later claimed they were tortured to get their confession.

Mostrales said Cardeño and Camacho had told him to kill Cervantes, adding that Cardeño even called him after the murder.

Roque, however, is convinced that Cardeño is still in the country.

Cardeño's lawyer, Homobono Adaza, had claimed that his client had already gone abroad.

But a Philippine National Police intelligence report dated May 25 said Cardeño had been spotted in a meeting of key personalities purportedly planning to commit acts of sabotage against the Arroyo administration.

If indeed Cardeño is in the country, why has nobody been able to arrest him?

The reason could be his being a member of the Philippine Military Academy clique at the PNP, claimed Cervantes' younger brother, Lloyd.

Cardeño belongs to PMA Class 1987.

Lloyd alleged that this could also explain why retired Chief Supt. Romeo Maganto, a non-PMAer, failed to arrest the high-profile fugitive when he was still in active duty.

In response to a request by the Cervantes family, President Macapagal-Arroyo appointed Maganto chief of Task Force Cervantes to account for Cardeño.

Outgoing PNP chief Hermogenes Edbane Jr., however, dissolved the task force a few months ago, further dashing hopes for Cardeño's arrest, according to Lloyd.

Guy counters sis' claims

By Leila B. Salaverria

BUSINESSMAN Gilbert Guy has come out to defend himself against his sisters' accusations that he hid their father Francisco, saying the habeas corpus case filed against him had been dismissed by a Quezon City Court.

In a statement faxed to reporters at the National Bureau of Investigation, Guy also appealed to his siblings to let the dispute between them stay within the family.

"The courts have spoken," he said in his statement. "Let justice be done, let my father be given his due of peace and quiet."

As this developed, Guy's siblings Grace, Geraldine and Gladys and their mother Simny said in a statement that they would give P1 million to anyone who could provide information leading to the whereabouts of Francisco, whom they said they last saw almost five months ago.

They said they were able to come up with the P1 million reward through the help of their relatives and friends who contributed to raise the amount.

Guy's sisters and mother earlier tearfully faced the media and appealed to their brother Gilbert to let them see their father. They also sought the help of the NBI in looking for him.

Guy said that the habeas corpus case was dismissed by Quezon City Judge Vivencio Baclig on June 25 this year. He added that the motion for reconsideration and a supplemental motion for reconsideration were denied on July 21.

In his statement, Guy also spoke of a dispute with his siblings.

He said his sibling, whom he claimed are Canadian citizens, took legal action against him because he got 80 percent of the shares in the family's Northern Islands Company, Inc. (NICI).

"They have claimed ownership of NICI after having made my father sign documents in spite of his current condition," he claimed. The elder Guy is said to have Alzheimer's disease that affects a person's memory.

The NICI executive also said a Manila Regional Trial Court issued a temporary restraining order dated July 15 barring his mother, siblings and a certain Emilia Tabugadir from preventing NICI officers from discharging their duties.

Guy said his father, in recognition of his dedication, sold him 80 percent of the shares in 1986, thereby giving him control of the company.

"Your protest and legal action at this time, in 2004... comes eighteen years too late, if as you say I have gotten these stocks through foul means," he said to his sisters.

He also said that since the 1970s, he and his father had worked hard to establish the NICI.

POLICE theorize that insiders could have planned the daring robbery yesterday at the Banco de Oro branch in Las Piñas' SM Southmall. VAL HANDUMON

5 guards hurt in Las Piñas bank rob

By Margaux C. Ortiz

FIVE security guards were hurt when unidentified robbers forcibly took duffel bags containing an undetermined amount of cash from the Banco de Oro branch outside the SM Southmall in Las Piñas City yesterday noon.

Police said Elmer Darag, Josias Paningbatan, Rodel Alhambra and Agido Guno sustained gunshot wounds in different parts of the body and were immediately taken to the Las Piñas District Hospital for treatment.

SM Southmall guard Richard Moncado also sustained a minor injury in his left leg, Chief Supt. Prospero Noble Jr. of the Southern Police District said.

Darag and Paningbatan of the Banco de Oro head office, and Guno of the Southmall branch were carrying three duffel bags for deposit at the main branch at 12:40 p.m.

As the three guards headed to an armored van, shots rang out from inside the mall, hitting Darag.

The guards ran toward the armored van for safety, but companions of the suspected robbers shot them.

The suspects escaped onboard a green Mitsubishi L-300 van recovered later at the St. Joseph Subdivision in Las Piñas.

Noble said they were looking at an inside job angle as the suspects could have smuggled the firearms before store hours.

Strike 2 for 'salvage' policeman?

By Marlon Ramos
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

CALAMBA CITY—A Makati policeman arrested while allegedly dumping the body of a victim of summary execution with three other policemen in a subdivision here is in hot water anew.

This after a co-worker of another alleged "salvage" victim recovered at Calamba Hills 2 in Barangay Barandal went to the police and identified PO2 Cenon Carolino as the one who allegedly abducted the victim.

City police chief Supt. Edmund Zaide said the witness, who declined to be identified, and Sheryl Gibson of Silang, Cavite, went to their office on Saturday. Sheryl then asked if she could see the body they found two days before Carolino and his companions were caught inside the subdivision.

Gibson said that after she saw the report on the arrested "salvage cops" on television, she had sensed that the other body could be that of her husband, who was allegedly abducted in Guadalupe Viejo, Makati City, on July 27.

The witness said he and Rolando Gibson were on their way home from work when the abduction took place.

Sheryl later identified the corpse as that of her husband, Rolando.

He was found 10 meters away from where Carolino—together with brother Pablito and Pasay policemen PO2 Marcelino Taduyo, PO1 Ramil Marquitad and PO1 Reynaldo Soronel—reportedly intended to dump the body of Gilbert Garcia.

Zaide said that Gibson was apparently strangled. The body also bore several stab wounds.

However, Zaide said they were not saying Carolino was responsible. "It's all up to the court," he said.

Gracia testimony: Why was press barred?

ON TARGET
Ramon Tulfo

THE PROBLEM of whether former kidnap victim Gracia Burnham did absolve the military of collusion with the Abu Sayyaf would not have come about had the judge, prosecutors and defense lawyers allowed reporters to cover the court proceedings.

If they were afraid that the reporters would be noisy, they could have allowed one reporter to cover for the rest of the media people assigned to cover the story. It's what we call in media pooled reporting.

The press should not be shut out from events of national significance like the trial where Burnham testified. Otherwise, let's abolish the media in this country altogether.

***

To the judge who heard the Burnham case: who are you to bar the media from covering the trial?

***

Did she or didn't she clear the military of conspiracy with the terrorist Abu Sayyaf?

The prosecutors who told reporters that she did probably are so inarticulate they misunderstood what Burnham was saying during the trial. Many government prosecutors are second-rate, nay, third rate, lawyers who couldn't find employment outside.

If you made up the story that Burnham did clear the military during the trial, you're really giving truth to the saying that lawyers are liars.

If, on the other hand, you were not lying but only misunderstood Burnham, then that's even worse because it betrays your lack of command of the English language.

***

Have you attended a court trial? I have many times because of the numerous libel cases filed against me.

I know how judges, prosecutors and defense lawyers express themselves during a trial.

Let me add though that there are exceptions. The INQUIRER lawyer assigned to defend me in my libel cases is brilliant in his logic and speech.

Otherwise, many judges, prosecutors and defense lawyers are nincompoops when it comes to expressing themselves in court.

Court proceedings in this country have become a joke. In fact, there's this joke about how judges, prosecutors and defense lawyers talk during a trial.

Prosecutor, cross-examining an accused: On the night of July 4, what did you did?

Defense counsel: Objiction (sic), Your Honor. The prosecution was misleding my client due to the pact he is sfeaking wrong grammar (sic).

Judge: Okay, don't use rung grammar inimur (sic).

P: On the night of July 4, wat did you done?

DC: Sim objiction (sic), Your Honor.

J: Chick (sic) your grammar also.

P (looking annoyed): On the night of July 4, wat did you did have done?

DC and Judge: Dats bitter!

***

On page 6 of the Saturday's issue of the INQUIRER, a Caucasian-looking man, apparently a US federal agent escorting Gracia Burnham, was photographed with a Heck and Koch MP-5 machine pistol.

Why was he allowed to carry a gun in our country, some people asked.

Why not? When the President of the Philippines visits the United States, the presidential bodyguards are allowed to carry guns to protect their ward.

So, what's wrong with a US federal agent carrying a gun here so long as he has permission from the local authorities?

Schools row rages; supt. decries 'ouster'

By Luige del Puerto

THE ROW over the issue of contractual teachers and the payment of public schools' utility bills in Pasig City is far from over.

In fact, it gets uglier by the day.

Schools Division Superintendent Abella Macarandan yesterday accused Mayor Vicente Eusebio of orchestrating her ouster.

According to her, a petition letter had been signed by 30 school principals requesting the Department of Education to transfer her to another division. Another letter from utility workers supported the petition.

Expect more open letters against her to follow, Macarandan told reporters in a press conference yesterday.

"In exchange for my head, the city will pay for the utility bills," she said, quoting messages sent to her by sympathetic principals—some of whom have signed the petition.

"They signed it because in exchange of that would come the money for electric, water and phone bills," she said.

"A few—and they did not want to be identified—said it was being followed up," she said, referring to the petition.

But Eusebio was quick to distance himself from the principals' move. "I have nothing to do with (them)," the mayor categorically said.

Eusebio said the city administrator informed him of the utility workers' letter only yesterday morning. "So I immediately asked the administrator to endorse this to people concerned," he said.

In his endorsement letter to Education Undersecretary Ramon Bacani, city administrator Reynaldo Dionisio said the city "highly regrets" sending the letter, saying this was "unproductive" in the light of the present state of affairs in the schools.

On July 28, Pasig principals wrote Education Secretary Edilberto de Jesus, accusing Macarandan of "weak leadership and poor rapport" with city officials.

Macarandan countered that she did everything she could to ensure that school operations would remain unhampered.

I. Calangian; 87

ISABELO M. Calangian Sr., of San Carlos City, Pangasinan, died on Aug. 1 after a long bout with emphysema at the age of 87. He is survived by his wife Eugenia, children Sonny and Marlene, Bonn and Vangie, Tita and Albert, Merlie, Rey and Winnie, Ismael and Rina, and Imelda and Ben, and his grandchildren.

His body lies at St. Joseph's Chapel, Holy Family Parish, Roxas District, Quezon City. Interment will be at the Himlayang Pilipino, Quezon City, on Thursday after the 9 a.m. Mass.

19th

"A Salute to the Champions!"

NATIONAL CONVENTION

Waterfront Hotel, Cebu City - July 15-17, 2004

GROLIER
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Dear Delegates,

I am very happy to be here in this wonderful resort city of Cebu to join you in celebrating the Grolier Success in Philippines.

2003 was a very difficult year: the outbreak of SARS, the violence in the South, the terrorist bombing in Manila, and the uncertainties surrounding the Presidential election made the work of our frontline sales and other supporting functions all the more challenging. But, working closely as a team, you rose to the occasion and met the challenge, and our business began to grow again in the second half of the year. It was a remarkable achievement and you should all be very proud of it.

You have been selected to come to this celebration because you have made a difference, your passion, dedication and achievement stand as shining examples for the rest of the organization. With you as the role model, I am all the more confident that we will continue to grow and realize the true potential in this country.

So, once again, thank you very much for your hard work this past year and its now time to play hard as well. Have a great time in Cebu.

Warmest regards,

FRANK C. WONG
President - Scholastic Asia

It is with great pleasure that I welcome all the delegates and guests to the 19th National Convention in Cebu City. After over 4 years of absence the National Convention is making a great comeback in the queen city of the south.

There have been 18 memorable conventions. I take pride in declaring that this 19th edition may just become the most memorable one. And for so many good reasons. It is the very first one after Grolier was acquired in the year 2000 by our new mother company Scholastic Inc. It is the first one where delegates of the tried, tested and successful Direct Sales business are joined by delegates of the exciting and very promising new businesses of Book Fairs and Trade & Education. It is also the first one graced by Senior Management from Corporate head office in the person of Mr. Hugh Roome, President of Scholastic International. Furthermore, the President of Scholastic Asia, Mr. Frank Wong, will experience for the first time this momentous occasion joined by the cream of the crop of the Philippine branch.

The achievement of your respective business goals have brought you here in Cebu. And for this I would like to extend my congratulations to you all for your success! And for those members of the Grolier and Scholastic teams who worked as hard but could not join us here in Cebu I sincerely thank you and I do wish you could be with us on the 20th staging of the National Convention next year!

Let us continue to work to achieve higher targets and goals and retain our status as Asia's No.1!

RENATO D. YAÑOS
Country Vice-President

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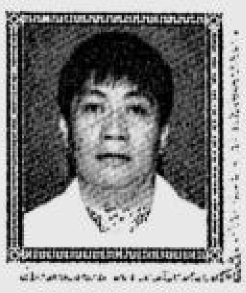

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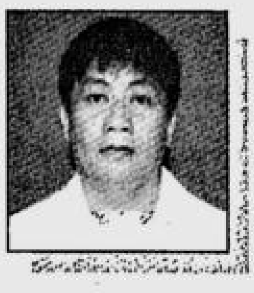

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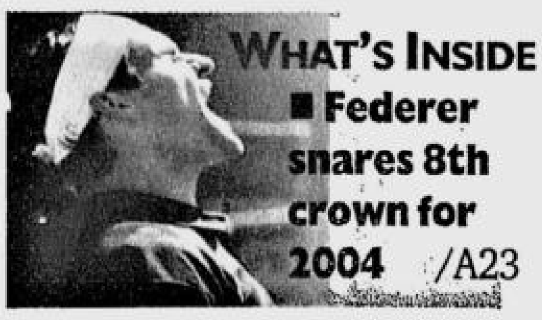
SCHOLASTIC

■ Rañola is RP's newest chess IM /A22



WHAT'S INSIDE

■ Federer snares 8th crown for 2004 /A23

■ Davenport strikes again /A23

■ Singh captures Buick Open /A23

Olympic golden quest resumes

Starting today, the INQUIRER *will feature a series of articles, researched and written by the Sports staff, on the Philippine campaign in the Games of the 28th Olympiad in Athens, Greece. The quadrennial event gets under way on Aug. 13.*

By Lorenzo Z. Manguiat, *Contributor*

GREEK mythology recounts tales of mortals seeking to touch the gods, dreaming of one day being able to dwell among them in the rarefied territory that is Mt. Olympus.

Now, in the very land where such tales of heroes and divinity were born, the Filipino athlete, earthly and temporal being that he is, continues his quest for Olympic immortality among the pantheon of gods that inhabit the sporting realm.

This archipelago in the Far East has participated in 17 stagings of the greatest sporting event since 1924, yet none of the Filipinos have returned from their journey with that one prize they so covet—a medal of gold. They all dared to dream of a golden harvest, yet 80 years have passed and the bounty includes two silvers and seven bronzes—but still no hint of gold.

ATHENS 2004

In all, 359 athletes in 19 different sports disciplines have so far represented the Philippines in the Summer Games. The biggest Philippine contingent was composed of 64 athletes during the 1964 Tokyo Olympics. The smallest delegation was made up of just one athlete—David Nepomuceno, who ran the 100-meter and 200m events during the 1924 Paris Olympics. The country missed the 1980 Moscow Olympics, which it opted to boycott following the lead of the United States.

The two silver medals were pocketed by boxers Anthony Villanueva and Mansueto "Onyok" Velasco. Villanueva settled for second place in the featherweight division against the Soviet Union's Stanislav Stepashkin during the 1964 Tokyo Olympics.

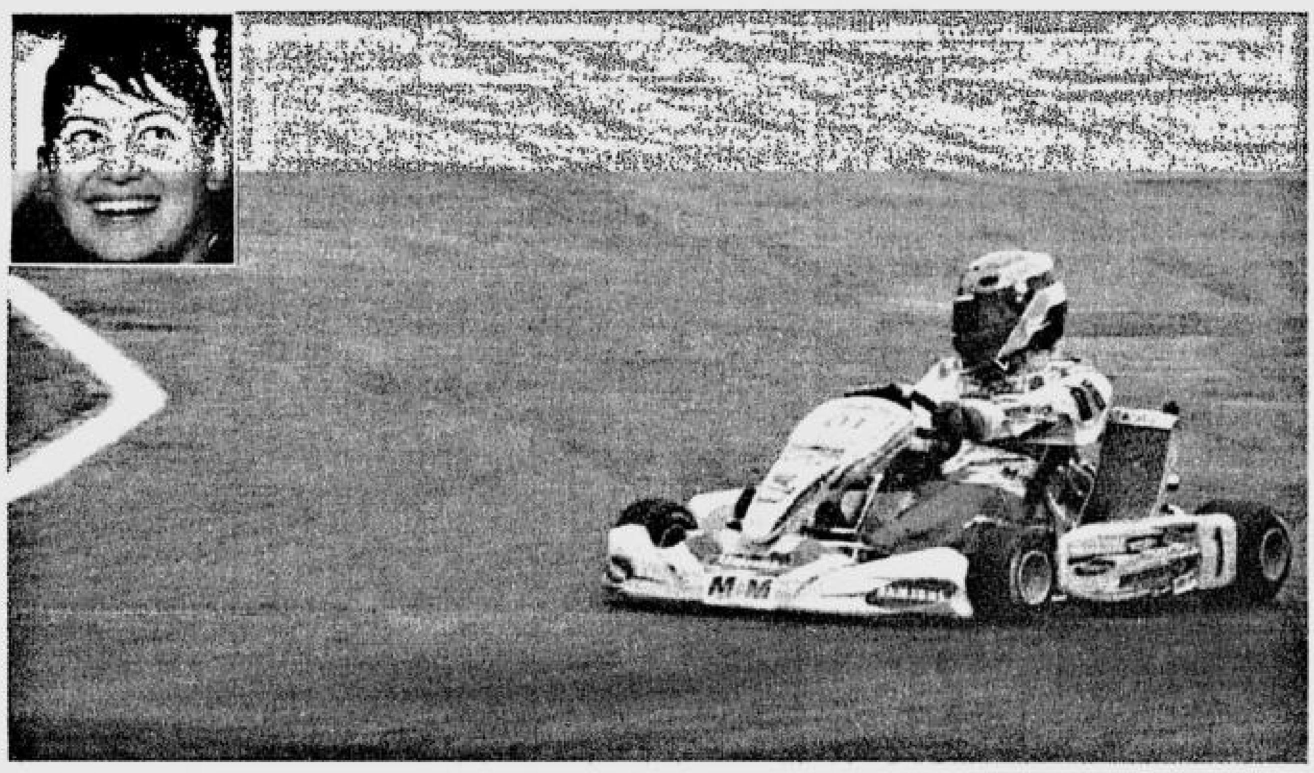
Velasco equaled Villanueva's feat in bowing to Bulgaria's Daniel Bojilov in the light fly finals of the 1996 Games in Atlanta.

The seven bronze medals were netted by swimmer Teofilo Yldefonso, tracksters Simeon Toribio and Miguel White and boxers Jose "Cely" Villanueva, Leopoldo Serantes and Roel Velasco.

Yldefonso holds the distinction of being the first Filipino Olympic medal winner when he took home the bronze in the men's 200-m breaststroke event during the 1928 Amsterdam Olympics. Yldefonso is likewise the only Filipino to win more than one medal as he again finished third in the same event in the 1932 Los Angeles Olympics.

The Philippines had its biggest haul in 1932 as Yldefonso, Torribio and Cely Villanueva each won a bronze for their efforts.

OLYMPIC/ A22



PRETTY SURE
Bumgarner negotiates a sharp curve as she maintains the lead in the sixth lap against her Malaysian rivals Sunday at the Kari Motor Speedway Go Kart Race Track in Combatoire, India.

Michelle picks up 3rd straight Asian kart win

COMBATOIRE, India—Karting ace Michelle Bumgarner shone as expected even as two Filipinos also topped their respective classes in the third leg Sunday of the 2004 Asian Karting Open here.

Bumgarner of M&M Racing was so dominant she won the premiere Open class for the third straight time by eight seconds in 16 minutes, 43.249 seconds.

The tall, comely daughter of a Zambaleña and an American businessman earlier topped the qualifying heats and the pre-final race.

Malaysian Charlie Charliz checked in second in 16:51.446, followed by his compatriot Imran Zaharias Shaharom.

The other RP winners were Marcel Thenu, who clinched his third straight victory in Rotax Max Veterans Class, and Marty Aguilar of Bosch-Intelco Racing Team, who emerged the surprise winner in the Rotax Max Juniors class.

Two other members of the RP delegation made it to the podium.

JP Carino, skipper of the Bosch-Intelco team, was runner-up in the Rotax Max Seniors division while Matteo Guidicelli of Cebu Racing Group wound up third in the Rotax Max Juniors class.

Guidicelli appeared headed for a sweep in the Rotax Max Juniors after topping all the qualifying heats and the pre-final race. Changes in track conditions, however, slowed down Guidicelli's bid in the final race.

Despite his disappointing finish, Guidicelli remained on track for the Rotax Max Juniors overall crown with a 10-point lead over Malaysian Calvin Wongwengman.

Manotoc playing in British Seniors

TOMMY Manotoc has gifted himself on his 55th birth anniversary with a trip to England to test his skills against the best of the world in senior golf.

Manotoc flew to London late last week and will participate in the Senior British Amateur Open that tees off tomorrow at the Berkshire Golf Club, where 256 of the top senior amateurs in the world are seeing action.

The first Filipino to compete in the prestigious event will join a field that features 69 Americans.

The R&A also organizes the British Open, which was won by American Todd Hamilton last month, and the British Amateur.

Manotoc, who turned 55 last July 29, has been preparing for the event, flying to the United States three weeks ago to play in courses similar to Berkshire.

"Tommy has been eyeing this stint for a long time now," said close friend and fellow Philippine Amateur Golf Development Foundation (PAGDF) director Abe Rosal. *Musong R. Castillo*

SPORTS TV

Compiled by L. Manguiat

BASKETBALL: NBA Summer League—Spurs vs Nuggets; 8 a.m. (r-12:30 a.m.); Solar Sports—San Antonio takes on Denver in this off-season duel.

NBA Greatest Game—Lakers vs Bucks, January 9, 1972; 11 a.m.; Solar Sports—See how Milwaukee halted LA's amazing 33-game winning streak.

TENNIS: Western & Southern Financial Group Masters; 7 a.m. (r-4 p.m.) and 1 a.m.; Star Sports—The first round kicks off in Cincinnati, Ohio.

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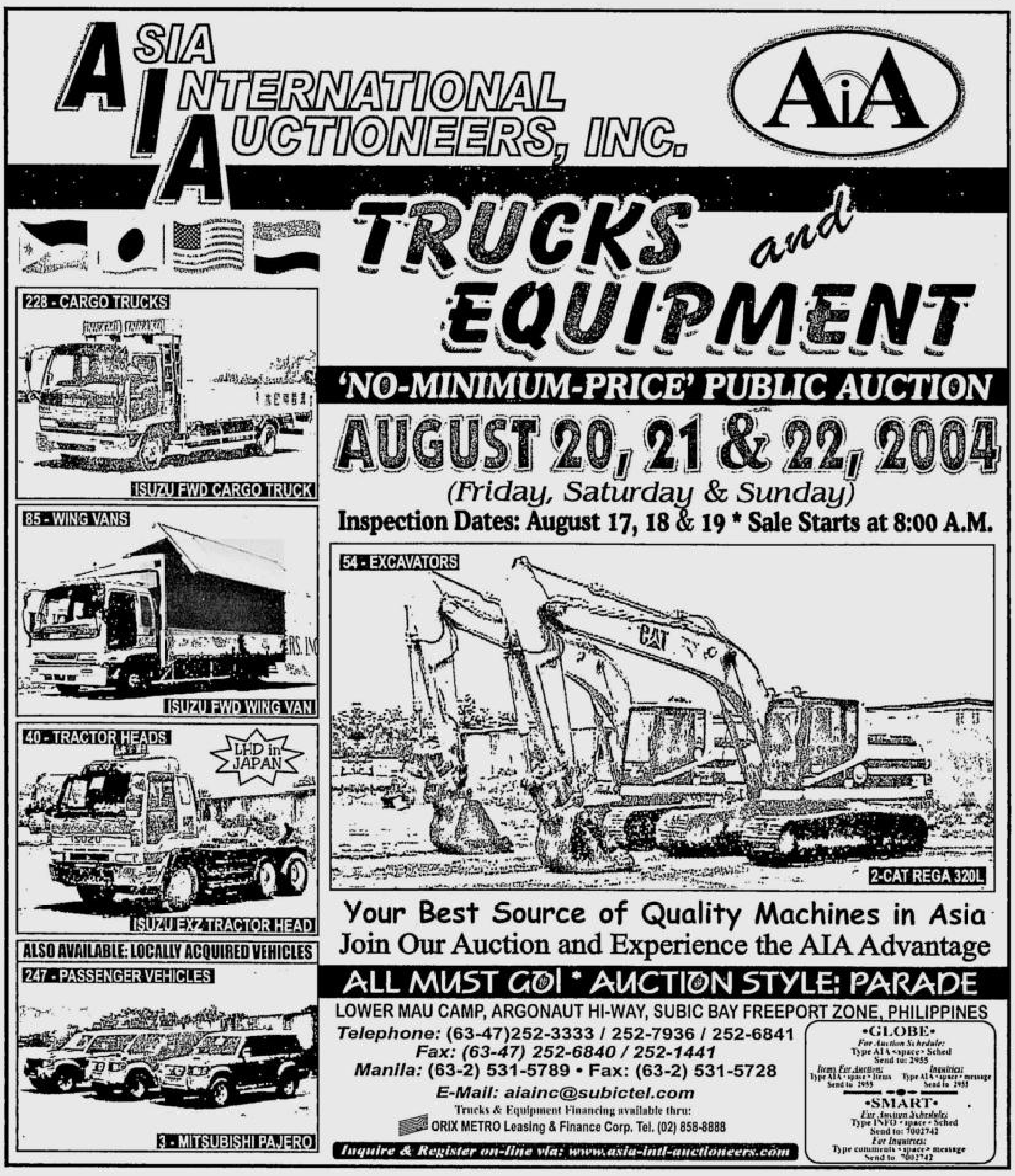

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Rañola lands fifth in Cannes, is RP's newest IM

RAÑOLA: GM-killer

Final standings:
7.0—GM Andrei Sokolov (France), GM Igor Miladinovic (Greece), GM Vladislav Tkachiev (France); **6.5**—GM Sinisa Drazic (Yugoslavia), NM YVES RAÑOLA (PHILIPPINES), GM Mladen Palac (Croatia), GM Chanda Sandipan (India), IM JOSEPH SANCHEZ (PHILIPPINES), GM Davor Komljenovic (Croatia), IM Fabio Bellini (Italy), FM Folco Castaldo (Italy), FM Fabricio Pattuzo (Switzerland)

FILIPINO National Master Yves Rañola won his ninth and final round match Sunday to finish in fifth place and secure his third and last International Master's norm at the Cannes Open chess tournament in France.

Rañola, of Caloocan City, outplayed FIDE Master Maurizio Brancaleoni of Italy to pool 6.5 points, the same output of compatriot IM Joseph Sanchez and seven others in the tough Swiss system event.

The two Filipinos wound up half a point behind Grandmasters Andrei Sokolov and Vladislav Tkachiev of France and Igor Miladinovic of Greece.

Sokolov won the tournament over Miladinovic and Tkachiev, in that order, on superior tiebreak points.

Rañola, who took the scalp of super GMs Miladinovic and Tkachiev earlier in the tournament, finished fifth, a rung behind Yugoslav GM Sinisa Drazic, after the tiebreak was applied.

Half a point behind solo leader Drazic overnight, the Cebuano Sanchez halved the point with Croatian GM Mladen Palac to finish with 6.5 points like Rañola. Sanchez eventually ended up eighth, right behind the sixth-placed Palac and Indian GM Chanda Sandipan.

Rañola sewed up the IM norm as early as the seventh round, according to Filipino international arbiter Gene Poliarco, when he posted 5.5 points. He earned a high performance rating of 2556 in the tournament that lured 12 GMs.

Another Filipino entry, IM Ronald Bancod, bowed to Pavel Govciyan of France to finish with 5 points and share 46th place. Bancod also lost in the eighth round to Yugoslav GM Miroljub Lazic.

In other final round matches, Tkachiev stopped Drazic, Miladinovic waylaid Lazic and Sokolov downed GM Bogdan Lalic of England.

NM Marlon Bernardino, Contributor

Lady Archers outhustle UP cagebelles

SOPHOMORE Kristine Alon-alon and veteran Khristine Prado provided the key plays as De La Salle nipped University of the Philippines, 58-55, for its first win in three games in the UAAP women's basketball tournament Sunday at the Adamson Gym.

STANDINGS	W	L
Women		
Ateneo	2	0
Adamson	2	0
UP	2	1
FEU	1	1
DLSU	1	2
UST	1	2
UE	0	3
High School		
UST	5	0
UPIS	3	1
UE	3	2
Ateneo	2	3
DLSZ	2	4
Adamson	1	3
NU	1	4

Alon-alon had 20 points, 12 from beyond the arc, while Prado, a four-year veteran, added 14 points while grabbing 11 rebounds for the Lady Archers who dealt the Lady Maroons their first setback in three outings.

Jaclyn Cruz paced UP with 25 points and 10 rebounds.

Defending champion Adamson blasted Far Eastern University, 58-48, and moved into a tie with idle Ateneo with its second straight win.

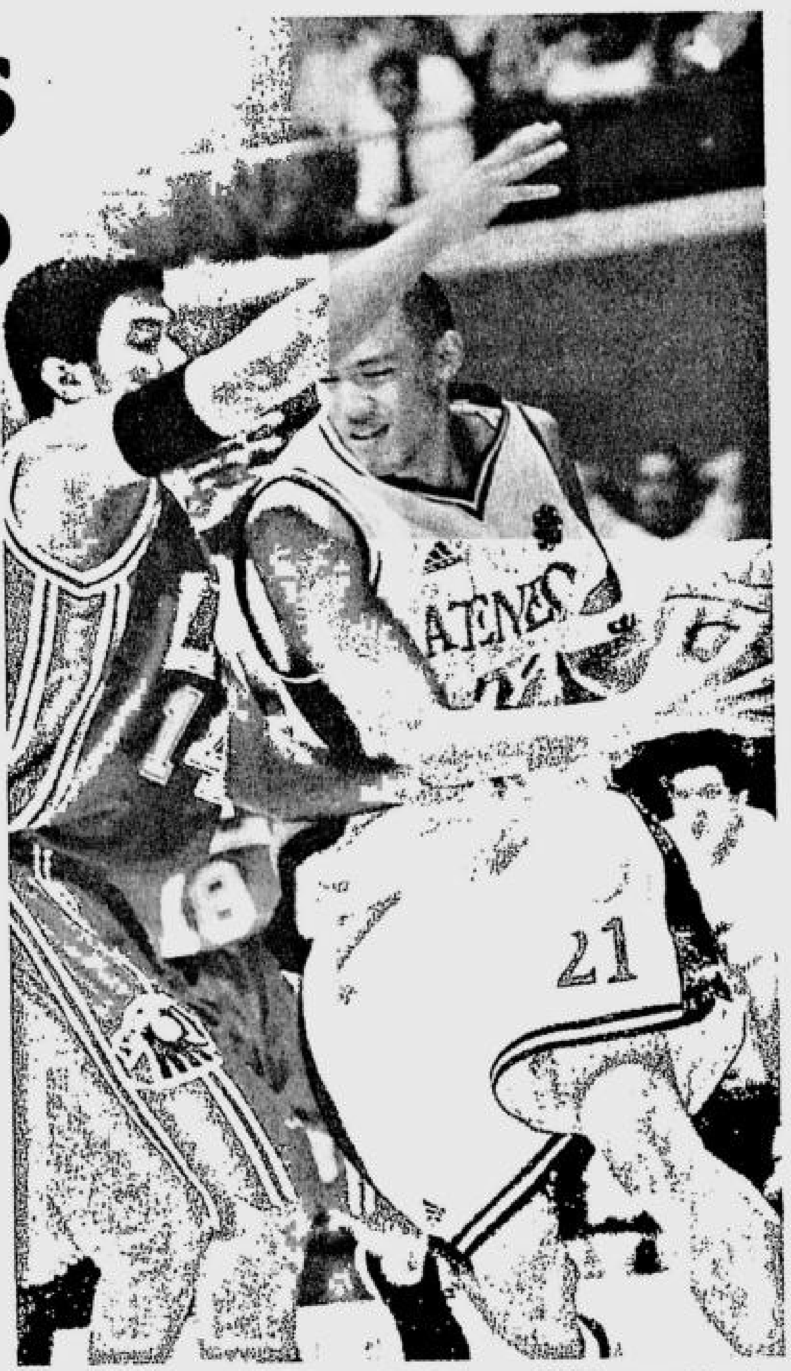
Far Eastern had booked the season's first upset via a 67-65 decision over De La Salle on opening day.

In the other match, University of Santo Tomas routed University of the East, 69-47. UST is now 1-2 while UE dropped to 0-3.

In high school play, UST stretched its streak to five with a 73-67 victory over Adamson even as UPIS took second after an 81-60 rout of NU.

UPIS improved to 3-1, overtaking idle defending champion Ateneo at 2-3.

The UE Pages edged La Salle-Zobel, 82-78, and improved to 3-2, while sending the once-proud Bengals to their fourth loss in six games.



ATENEO'S Paolo Bugia runs into RJ Masbang of UE in a recent senior game won handily by the league-leading Eagles, 74-50. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

SPORTSWATCH

Xavier, Ateneo cagers post victories

XAVIER School and Ateneo scored their fourth straight victories Sunday to pace the Milo Best SBP (Small Basketeers Philippines)/Passerelle tournament at the St. Benedict College courts in Alabang Hills. Xavier crushed Notre Dame of Greater Manila, 110-10, to remain as one of only three unbeaten SBP teams. Ateneo whipped University of Santo Tomas, 57-30, in the Passerelle division. San Beda ripped Jose Rizal University, 43-17, to pace SBP's Group B at 3-0, half a game ahead of idle Ateneo (2-0). The other SBP winners were Lourdes School Mandaluyong over Community of Learners, 65-35; St. Mary's College over Lourdes School QC, 41-40; Marist over JASMS, 62-24; and La Salle Zobel over Don Bosco Technical Institute, 34-32. In the Passerelle group, it was La Salle Greenhills over Notre Dame, 87-34; DLSZ over Don Bosco Mandaluyong, 44-30; San Beda over Xavier, 83-69; St. Anthony over Holy Infant Montessori Center, 56-31; and Marist over Lourdes School, QC, 51-33.

Gamboa set to come out of retirement

AFTER Gerry Peñalosa, another Filipino ex-world champ is returning to ring action after announcing his retirement several months ago. Former World Boxing Association minimumweight champ Joma Gamboa, who is based in Lilo-an, Cebu, tries to revive his career when he steps onto the ring again before the end of the year in an overseas fight. The 32-year-old Gamboa, who reigned as WBA 105-lb champ in 2000 under the guidance of Japanese boxing guru Joe Koizumi, announced his retirement last January following a failed try at the World Boxing Council 108-lb throne. He was stopped in the second round by Mexican champ Jorge Arce. The Negros-born fighter, once considered as the country's hardest-punching minifly, left prizefighting with a record of 33-8-2 with 22 KO's.

Salven L. Lagumbay, Contributor

Aquino tops MCC chess via tiebreak

FOURTH seed Jose Aquino Jr. defeated Nelson Villanueva in 37 moves of a Ruy Lopez game in the final round Sunday to rule via tiebreak the August edition of the MCC 2050-below active chess tournament at the J&F Divino Building in Quezon City. Aquino of Central Luzon State University, who pooled five wins and two draws for a final tally of six points, actually tied for first with Harrison Maamo of Davao City. The two shared the P4,500 cash prize. Maamo, who trounced Nazario Ubanan for his sixth victory, suffered his only loss at the hands of Aquino. In solo third with 5.5 points was Johnne Balquin, who beat Philipp Cartagena. Sharing fourth to seventh places were Ubanan, Rainier de Guzman, Esmael Abas and Armando Labardo with 50 points apiece. Ubanan and Labarda shared top unrated honors while 10-year-old Marc Nazario of Cornerstone Academy was adjudged best kiddie performer.

Stags screening ongoing for LP derby

SCREENING of stags intended for the annual Las Piñas 6-Stag Derby is ongoing at the Las Piñas Coliseum every Saturday and Sunday from 1 to 5 p.m. Stags banded by NCA, Ucap, GF-BAN, NGBA, Migba, B-Cup and LGBA are automatically accepted. To be hosted by Mayor Nene Aguilar, the stagfest is set on Aug. 24 and 26 and offers a cash prize of P1 million on an entry fee of P15,000, plus two brand-new motorcycles for the champions. For inquiries, call 873-1040 and 874-3910 or 09205609404. Meanwhile, the Gentleman Cockers Association of the Philippines, a group of big-time cockers and breeders who will fight exclusively at Las Piñas Coliseum, was organized recently. Bannering the group are former Ucap members like Sonny Lagon, Patrick Antonio, Gov. Ito Yñares, Maj. Bobby Doromal, Boy de Roca, Jet Fernando, Blandy Tolentino, Benjie Lim, Tony Lasala, Ramon Mancenares and Pol Estrellado as well as Rep. Rudy Albano, Gerry Ramos, Mayor Nene Aguilar, Tony Marfori, Mayor Ashley Arayata, Boy Royo, lawyer Edwin Abella, Pepito Ngo, Manny and Arman Santos and Eric dela Rosa.

Sta. Ana hackfight dangles prizes galore

PRIZES galore await the winners of the upcoming 3-Cock Daytime Derby on Aug. 10 at the Sta. Ana Cockpit along AP Reyes Avenue in Makati City. The event, which dangles a guaranteed prize of P350,000, starts at 2 p.m. with more than 140 fights on tap, said derby hosts Aba Badiola and Kags Paliza. Entry fee is P5,500. Badiola said more than 80 small-time cockers and breeders from Metro Manila and nearby provinces are seeing action in the derby which offers a brand-new owner-type jeep as bonus for the fastest kill champion. Ten mountain bikes await the runner-up finishers. Submission of weights is on Aug. 9 from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m. For inquiries, call 898-3474 and 898-3475. Regular hackfights are held at Sta. Ana Cockpit every Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

RACING TIPS

AT SANTA ANA BY MR. 999

Race 1--1. Do It David 2. Seven Lakes 3. Golden Snake-hotdog 4. En Carta
Race 2--1. Wind Storm 2. Andee's Gold 3. Rivaldo 4. Half Medium 5. Sparkling Cool
Race 3--1. Silver Place 2. Rikitik 3. Stradivarius 4. Spinning Thunder 5. Valentine Dancer
Race 4--1. Rio 2. Commodore Tiger 3. Regal Style
Race 5--1. Bunker Buster 2. Renzie Stays 3. Shining Lance 4. Native Prince 5. Prince Valiant
Race 6-- Money Maker 2. Silver Flyer 3. Sandali Lang 4. Roger Rocket
Race 7--1. Red Rose 2. Ichiro 3. Persona Real 4. Aya's Star 5. Golden Moment
Race 8--1. Going- Strike 2. Aminin 3. Magic Bullet 4. Bullish Dream 5. Naglalabyog 6. Don't Tell Me

Asia-Pacific Pony baseball starts today; RP faces Japan

FOUR teams, headed by powerhouse Chinese-Taipei, slug it out for a spot in next month's World Series when the 30th Asia-Pacific Zone Pony Baseball Championship unfolds today at the Rizal Memorial ballpark.

The Taiwanese, who last won the event two years ago, clash with 2002 runners-up South Koreans at 11 a.m. in what could be a preview of the championship serving as eliminator for the Pony World Series set in Pennsylvania next month.

Host Philippines goes up against fancied Japan, represented by national champion Okinawa, at 2 p.m.

A simple opening ceremony at 10 a.m. kicks off the four-day event organized by Pony Baseball Southeast Asian representative and RP Tot Baseball president Rodolfo "Boy" Tingzon Jr.

"We're really excited because it's the first time that we are hosting this big event," said Tingzon, vice-chair of the organizing committee of the meet sponsored by Jollibee, Purefoods and Coca-Cola and supported by the Philippine Sports Commission and Pagcor.

Asia-Pacific Zone baseball will also give an award to Tingzon's father, Rodolfo "Totoy" Sr. for establishing youth baseball leagues in the Asia-Pacific region in the early 1960s for which he earned the title "Father of Youth Baseball."

Yoshio Oda, the tournament director, will hand out the award to Tingzon in behalf of Zone director Shinjuke Itoh during the opening ceremony expected to be graced by Philippine Sports Commission chair Eric Buhain and Philippine Olympic Committee president Celso Dayrit.

Cebu ICG tennis bet wins twice

CLEVELAND, OHIO—Jin Querubin came up with two wins before losing in the quarterfinals of the girls' lawn tennis Sunday in the International Children's Games here.

Querubin waylaid American Effe Blackwell, 6-0, 6-0, then ran over Marlin Bengtsson Hal of Sweden, 6-1, 6-3, before bowing out to a more superior rival in Nadina Secerbegonia of Luxembourg, 1-6, 0-6.

"Jin is in a class of her own. Beating players from the US and Sweden is already a personal achievement for her. She can still play better though in the next round," said Team Cebu City head coach Fritz Tabura.

The other members of Team Cebu City were not as lucky, however, as netters Julius Lagman, James Karl Cañete and Claire Cortes were eliminated in the second round.

They will have a chance for better placing when they compete in the losers' bracket tomorrow.

The table tennis team will also resume their campaign tomorrow.

Olympic golden quest resumes

From page A21

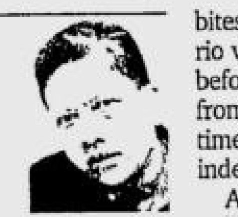
Three other Filipinos have also won medals in demonstration/exhibition sports. Arianne Cerdeña won the gold in ladies' bowling during the 1988 Seoul Olympics while Stephen Fernandez and Bea Lucero each got a bronze in taekwondo during the 1992 Barcelona Olympics.

This year, 16 more Filipino combatants will encounter the greatest challenge of their athletic careers. On their shoulders are borne the hopes of more than 80 million citizens longing for that singular moment when our flag is raised high above all others and the familiar tune of our national anthem is played on the background.

The Pinoy's Olympic odyssey begins anew.

Laudable Larry

SPECTATOR



Al S. Mendoza

LARRY Fonacier is the epitome of everything good in a basketball player. You punch him with your fist cocked, he'll send you flowers after the game. Peace. You knock him down with a shove or a *sahod*, he'll buy you a Grappa's hot dog sandwich for a job well done. Make that foot-long.

His style, his cool as a cat's nose demeanor on the hard court, makes him almost a total stranger to the game. He is so serene-looking he can be your human Mindanao Deep: Calm but dangerous. Had he picked up chess, it would have been perfect; he could be a grandmaster by age 14—the number on his basketball jersey.

Larry Fonacier plays basketball so clean he can be your male Mother Teresa any day of the week.

That is why when he suffered that season-ending injury a while back, even his fiercest opponents in the UAAP grieved. They miss the one guy who loves to beat them. Not even the legendary Larry Bird, Mr. Sportsmanship personified, had been accorded that distinction.

Larry Fonacier was the hands-down choice as Ateneo's top gun this year in the 67th season of the UAAP. Like former Ateneo stalwarts before him—Enrico Villanueva and Rich Alvarez—he was also to be given the starring role in this his last season in the nation's most glamorous collegiate basketball league.

That is why when Ateneo played its first game minus him last weekend, the Philsports Arena in Pasig had looked more like a funeral parlor than a boisterous arena for gladiators going after each other's throats. Mourning seemed to have filled the air even before the referee's first whistle was blown. It became more pronounced when Adamson built a 20-point margin, 33-13.

As clear as day, Larry Fonacier was being sorely missed.

As predicted, Ateneo could yet go down on all fours without Larry Fonacier.

And then it happened.

Call it a miracle, but Ateneo resurrected itself like biblical Lazarus. In the third quarter, a reversal of roles materialized—almost in an instant. Suddenly, the Eagles turned from assimilator to aggressor, the Falcons from maulers to meek lambs. The measly five points scored by Adamson in the third period made half of the story of Ateneo's come-from-behind victory in this Saturday of Saturdays.

Call it destiny, but this one seems really fated to go Ateneo's way.

Before the game, the Ateneo campus became literally Larry Fonacier campus. He was in banners and posters all over. Students wore Larry Fonacier pins while attending classes.

At Philsports on Saturday, both alumni and students were practically in "Larry" T-shirts. The entire Eagles crew had Larry's No. 14 on their jerseys.

If you ask me, I'd say this wasn't the Ateneo team playing in the UAAP. This was the Larry Fonacier team: Full of heart, spunky, cold-blooded.

If you ask me, I'd say the Blue Eagles weren't playing for Ateneo. This time, they were playing for Larry Fonacier. Dedication time. MRS: Most Requested Shot, as in the shot from afar by LA Tenorio that made Ateneo the winner, 58-55.

They call that Tenorio shot the Baby Jordan shot. First, Tenorio will fake a forward motion on the dribble. If the guard bites, as has happened many times, Tenorio will next make a quick backward step before flinging the shot. When the triple from left quarter court hit its mark with time almost expiring, the jubilation was indescribable.

After the game, Larry Fonacier's mother, Belle, sat at ringside for almost 10 minutes motionless after crying a river. Larry Fonacier's father, Phil, an immigration officer at Naia, stuck to her all this time.

When interviewed by sportswriters, Tenorio said he had nothing in his mind but Larry Fonacier when he hatched Ateneo's final offensive for the day. It came after Paolo Bugia had jumped to forge a 55-all count.

"All I could think of was Larry," said Tenorio, who unloaded the bomb via his patented step-back motion, giving him just enough room for a clear view through the outstretched arms of Leo Canuday. "That one was for Larry."

When Tenorio's shot went in for a 58-55 Ateneo lead, it looked like the Eagles had won the crown as the predominantly Ateneo crowd at the packed arena jumped for joy. In the din of things, Adamson failed to mount a respectable assault as time expired.

And where was Larry Fonacier?

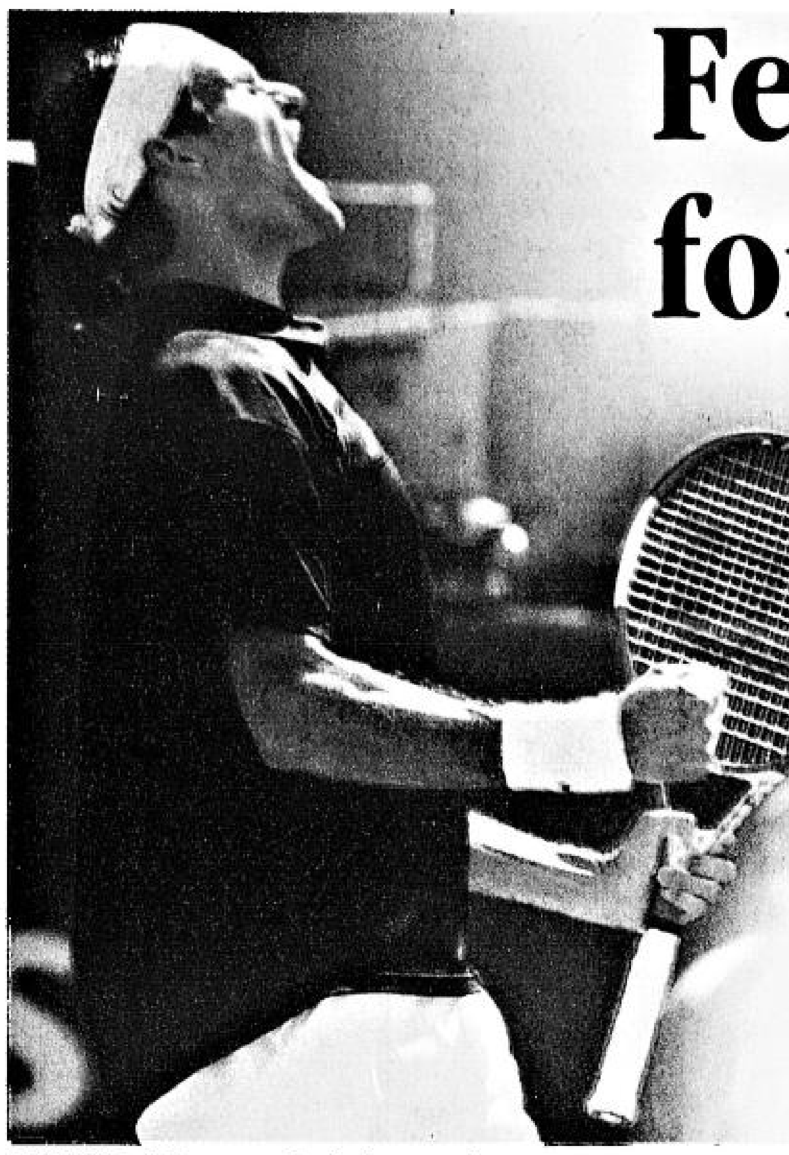
At home watching the thriller on TV.

I would imagine he must have also celebrated Ateneo's fifth straight victory in his own inimitable way: Quiet, like a river that runs deep.

***

FASTBREAK. Congratulations to Gov. Rodolfo "Totoy" R. Tingzon for receiving an award from Japan for his pioneering efforts in introducing tot baseball and softball in Japan in 1974. Coining up the slogan Pony (Protect Our Nation's Youth), Totoy linked up with the late newspaper columnist Doroy Valencia in propagating Pony Baseball in the region and soon, the game caught fire in Taiwan, Korea, Australia, China, Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia, India, Vietnam and even Russia. Late last month, the Japan Pony Baseball Association, through its Chairman Shinsuki Ito, feted Tingzon and hosted a banquet in his honor at the famed Towerhall Funabori Convention Center in Edogawa, Tokyo. Before he left for Tokyo, Totoy called me up to break the good news. He even invited me to join him, recalling the time when we were in the United States twice in 1983, in St. Louis, Missouri, and Las Vegas, for an international tournament and a Pony convention, respectively. Here's a glass to a dear buddy!

Federer snares 8th crown for 2004, ties Borg's mark



FEDERER celebrates a point in the second set. AFP

TORONTO—Roger Federer captured his eighth title of 2004 and earned himself a spot in the tennis record books alongside Bjorn Borg with a title at the $2.56-million Masters Series Sunday.

The Swiss world No. 1, performing to perfection on his country's national day, needed less than 90 minutes to defeat Andy Roddick, 7-5, 6-3, duplicating his Wimbledon finals victory over the American.

The win left Federer with a 57-4 record for the season, including 23 match wins in a row.

He also became the first player since Borg in 1979 to win three titles in a row on three different surfaces—grass, clay and hardcourt.

In his four-tournament winning streak, Federer's last three came at Wimbledon (grass), Gstaad (clay) and Toronto.

"Bjorn Borg is my hero," said the 22-year-old. "I've met him once, and I'd like to do so again. He's a great player and a great person. This is something for the history books." Federer admitted that he was exhausted after another trophy-lifting performance, with more challenges looming in next week's follow-on Masters Series in Cincinnati and then the Olympic Games in Athens.

"The tournament is over, and I'm relieved," he said. "It's all over and I can relax for a day. I'm very surprised that I won. I came here hoping to get through the early rounds, I was just hoping to get my feel back for the game.

"Sometimes I get the feeling that people think this is normal," added Federer. "It's difficult to keep these streaks going.

"If I'd lost, a lot of streaks would have been broken. I'm glad to have won this match. I knew what was riding on it." Federer said he experienced bittersweet moments—winning on Switzerland's national day but also on the second anniversary of the day he learned that former coach Peter Carter had died in a car crash in South Africa.

The American has another title to defend starting Monday at Cincinnati, where he will again be seeded second behind Federer. Roddick acknowledged that he and coach Brad Gilbert have a big job ahead. *AFP*

Stupples prevails; Rosales bags ₱.7M

SUNNINGDALE, England—Karen Stupples won the British Women's Open by five strokes on Sunday and became only the third Englishwoman to claim a major golf championship after a stunning final round of 64.

With a 19-under par total, she equaled the championship record set by Australian Karrie Webb over the same course in 1997 as she held off the challenge of joint overnight leader Rachel Teske of Australia who had a closing 70.

Filipina Jennifer Rosales wound up in a three-way tie for 35th following a 73 and an even 288 total. Rosales pocketed $12,726 (P712,000).

The 31-year-old Stupples opened the round in remarkable fashion with an eagle followed by an albatross before a run of three straight birdies from the 15th finally put her clear.

American Heather Bowie was third on 13 under after a 71, with Mexico's Lorena Ochoa fourth on 12 under after a 70.

Stupples, whose first win in five years as a professional was in the LPGA Tour season opener in Tucson, Arizona, is the first Englishwoman to win the title since Penny Grice-Whittaker in 1991. The tournament gained major status three years ago.

Stupples' amazing start—she holed a 15-foot putt for the eagle three at the 485-yard first and then sank a five iron from 205-yards for the albatross two at the 475-yard second—set the tone for a thrilling afternoon showdown.

But it took three birdies in a row from the 15th for Stupples to finally shake off the bunch of challengers and join Laura Davies, who has won four, and Alison Nicholas, the 1997 US Women's Open Champion, as English winners of a major.

"It's absolutely mind-blowing," said Stupples, who equaled the lowest score for a women's major set by Dottie Pepper at the 1999 Kraft Nabisco Championship.

Minea Blomqvist, the 19-year-old Finn who shot a record 62 in the third round, again showed her huge potential with a 70 and tied for eighth on 10 under.

World No. 1 Annika Sorenstam ended her defense of the championship with a rather disappointing 71 and had to settle for a share of 13th place. *Reuters*

Singh holds off Daly, captures Buick Open

FLINT, Michigan—Vijay Singh held on for a one-shot victory over John Daly at the Buick Open on Sunday, claiming his fourth title of the year despite a bogey at the final hole.

Playing in the final group of the day, Singh and Daly dueled through the final round.

Singh withstood a sizzling start by Daly, who played the first four holes in five-under, and the Fiji native took the lead for good with a birdie on No. 16.

It was the fourth victory of the year and second Buick Open title for Singh, who signed for a 5-under-par 67 and completed 72 holes at 23-under 265.

"John kind of put a lot of pressure on me in the early stages, and that was a good battle," Singh said.

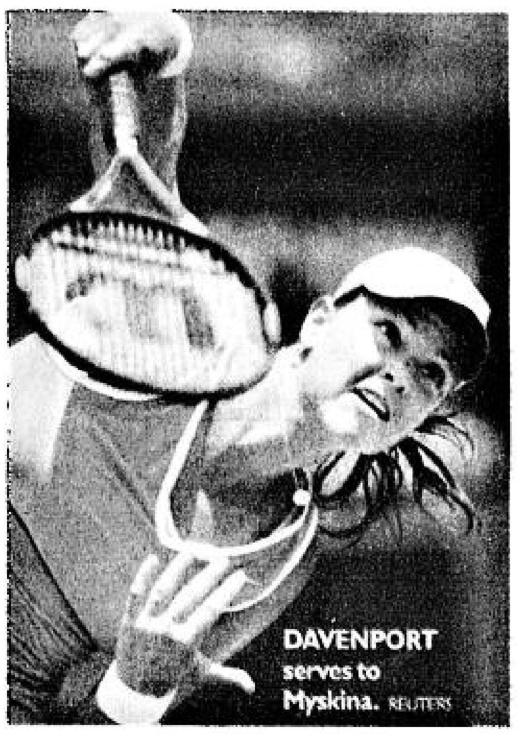
Daly, who ended a nine-year drought earlier this year at the Buick Invitational, posted a 66.

Almost lost amid the battle between Singh and Daly was the play of Tiger Woods, who tied for third with Paraguay's Carlos Franco at 21-under and is still without a victory in a stroke-play event this year.

Woods, who did win the WGC Match Play event this year, could not catch Singh despite four rounds in the 60s, including back-to-back 66s on the weekend.

Nursing a one-shot lead, Singh pulled his drive on No. 18 under a tree, then appeared to be in more trouble when he left his second shot in the deep rough. *AFP*

SINGH hits his tee shot on the 14th hole. AFP



DAVENPORT serves to Myskina. REUTERS

Davenport claims 3rd title in row

SAN DIEGO, California—Lindsay Davenport captured her third title in as many weeks, routing French Open champion Anastasia Myskina, 6-1, 6-1, Sunday in the final of the $1.3-million WTA hardcourt event here.

The No. 4 seeded American won her second career San Diego title and extended her winning streak to 14 consecutive matches.

Myskina appeared to run out of gas on Sunday after a thrilling two hour, 28 minute semifinal victory over compatriot Vera Zvonareva the night before.

With Sunday's win, Davenport duplicates her 1998 feat of winning all three legs of the California hardcourt season—tuneup events leading into next month's US Open.

In 1998, Davenport went on to win the US Open, the first of her three Grand Slam triumphs.

"It has just been a phenomenal summer so far," said Davenport, who will jump two spots to the No. 2 ranking on Monday after claiming her fifth title of the year. "I'm just so grateful I've been able to play and stay healthy. I've just really enjoyed it and hope I can keep it going for another few weeks through the Open." The former world No. 1 beat Venus Williams in Stanford and younger sister Serena in Los Angeles before hoisting her 43rd career trophy and collecting $189,000 in San Diego.

Davenport needed just 47 minutes to subdue the exhausted Myskina, who returned to center court after battling to a 6-2, 6-7 (4/7), 7-6 (17/15) win over Zvonareva.

After that marathon, the third-seeded Russian couldn't find her legs nor the firepower to challenge the hottest player on the tour. *AFP*

MAT team of 5 set to face Moab challenge

AND THEN THERE WERE FIVE: Marlboro Adventure Team Philippines members Agustin, Nombrado, Cucueco, Soriano and Bondoc with Philip Morris Philippines Manufacturing Inc. managing director Nelson, Marlboro brand manager Evangelista and marketing director Maarten Kila.

HE'S been driving since he was 13 but not behind the wheel of a 4x4. Another has scaled mountains and swam seas, but finds no sense of self-fulfillment. Yet another has tried nearly all sports, but feels none was quite emotionally tugging as this.

After a three-day, full-contact outdoor activity known as the national finals held recently in Clark Field, Pampanga, the Marlboro Adventure Team (MAT) has produced another set of individuals raring to take their grit for grind to the highest stage: the spectacular Moab, Utah, to join MATs from other countries in the ultimate face-off between man, machine and Mother Nature.

Team Philippines going to the Beehive State in September is made up of JC Agustin, 24; Joannel Nombrado, 32; Eden Cucueco, 33; Jenny Soriano, 28; and Tony Bondoc, 29. The five were picked out from 25 other national aspirants from an original field of 250,000 applicants —a MAT record.

Another record? This will be the first time two ladies made it.

"I still couldn't believe that I won," said Cucueco, sometime scuba diver and mountain climber. "Everything was a real surprise. To become a part of the competition and be a finalist were special enough. More than that *pa ang binigay na* happiness *sa 'kin nitong* experience *na 'to* (It was an even more fulfilling experience)."

"It's kind of cool that people you don't know come up to you and congratulate you. It's a nice feeling," said Bondoc.

The adventures listed on the MAT menu included driving quad bikes or ATVs, 4x4s, boat-flipping in noontime heat, rappelling, trekking on lahar, sliding through the tyrolean traverse, orienteering, timed mountaineering and swimming against currents.

"Again, we have achieved what the MAT has always wanted to achieve," said Chris Nelson, managing director of Philip Morris Philippines Manufacturing Inc. (PMPMI), "and that is to come up with a team that underlines what adventure is, that out there is freedom with nature."

Very appropriate indeed for the 2004 MAT that champions the theme "Freedom Calling."

Jasper Evangelista, Marlboro brand manager for PMPMI, agreed. "It's a team like no other. This year, with two ladies on the MAT Philippines, we could say we have overachieved."

The RP roster said it all: occupational therapist, publisher, entrepreneur, field engineer and farmer.

None among the five had gone through a course that combined challenges that tested the limits of mind and body as well as invigorating recreation that enriched the human spirit.

"I thought they were after the people who embodied the spirit of the MAT," said Bondoc, the entrepreneur from Quezon City. "And people who know me, know me to be that fun-loving person even before. Seeing me, people close to me now know what it takes to be in this event.

"*Ngayon ang dami na nilang balak sumali* (Now everybody wants to join)," he beamed.

Cucueco, the full-time publisher and mother of four, said her adrenalin wasn't as high as when they tackled what MAT had to offer.

To cap a day of sun, soil and sweat, participants engaged in team-building activities ranging from parlor games to play-acting.

"I wasn't the strongest, the fastest. But our team was the happiest out there," smiled Bondoc, who relished driving the 4x4. "We enjoyed each other's company. For us, it wasn't just a race; it was an experience. We were just savoring the moment."

From medical supervisors who were present round the clock and strategically positioned around the area to the course experts who, according to Soriano, "were patient and made learning easy," the MAT has become the ideal playground for those who want to break through their comfort zones and embrace the vastness of a limitless world.

Bicolanos power UM past Centro

DEFENDING champion University of Manila leaned on its two aces from Bicol to down Centro Escolar University, 70-65, in the National Athletic Association of Schools, Colleges and Universities (Naascu) basketball tournament at the UM gym recently.

The Hawks banked on the hot hands of Jovit Gomez and Ryan Regalado to turn back the Scorpions and clinch their third straight win in the nine-team, double-round tournament.

Gomez, a 6-foot find from Sorsogon, scattered 17 of his game-high 25 points in the second half, while Regalado, a 5-9 guard from Virac, Catanduanes, added 10 points.

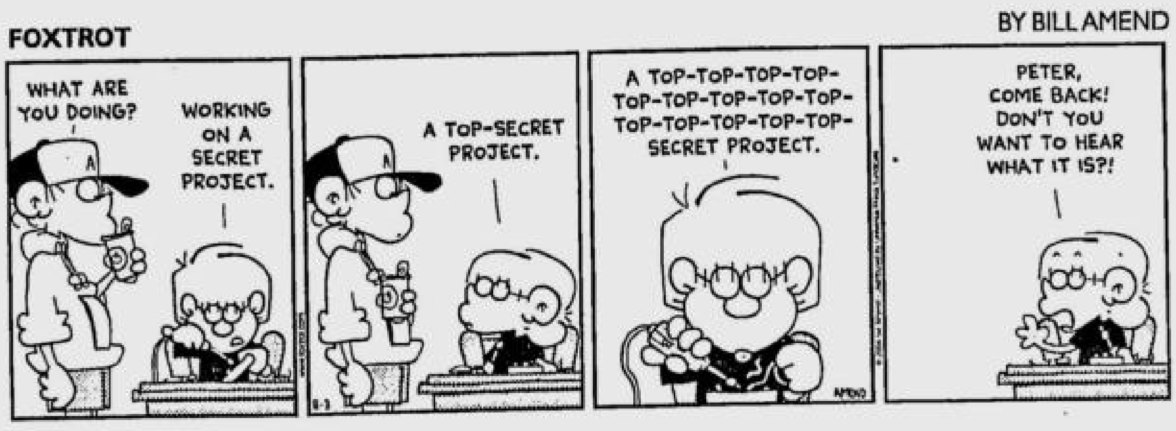
UM completed a double kill as the Hawklets, getting 37 points from Onofre Napiza, overpowered New Era University, 74-59, for their second straight win in the high school category.

In other juniors matches, St. Clare College (Caloocan) downed University of Makati, 101-97, to join the Hawklets in the lead and BCSCMC whipped Holy Angel, 100-65.

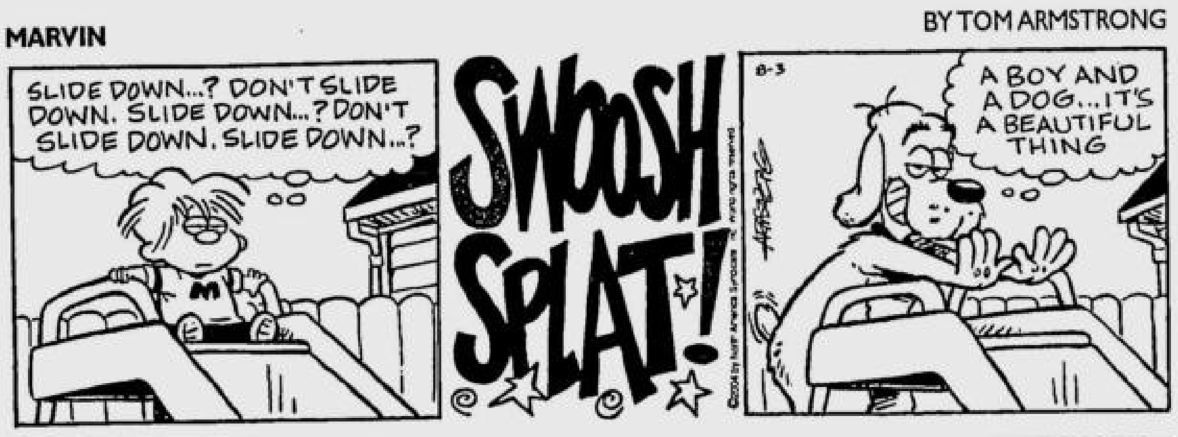
STANDINGS	W	L
UM	3	0
PLP	2	0
St. Clare	1	1
CEU	1	1
AMACU-QC	1	1
Univ. of Makati	1	1
STI	0	1
New Era	0	2
Holy Angel	0	2

GAMES TODAY (UM gym)
9 a.m.—New Era vs PLP (S)
10:30 a.m.—Holy Angel vs University of Makati (S)
12 nn—CEU vs Holy Angel (W)
1:30 p.m.—St. Clare vs STI (S)

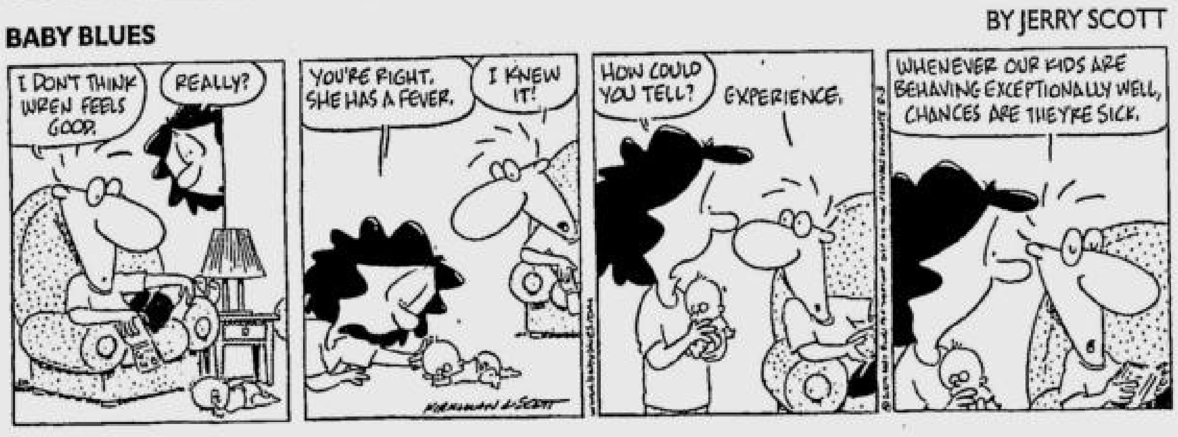
FOXTROT BY BILL AMEND


WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
WORKING ON A SECRET PROJECT.
A TOP-SECRET PROJECT.
A TOP-TOP-TOP-TOP-TOP-TOP-TOP-TOP-TOP-TOP-TOP-TOP-TOP-TOP-SECRET PROJECT.
PETER, COME BACK! DON'T YOU WANT TO HEAR WHAT IT IS?!
8-3
AMEND

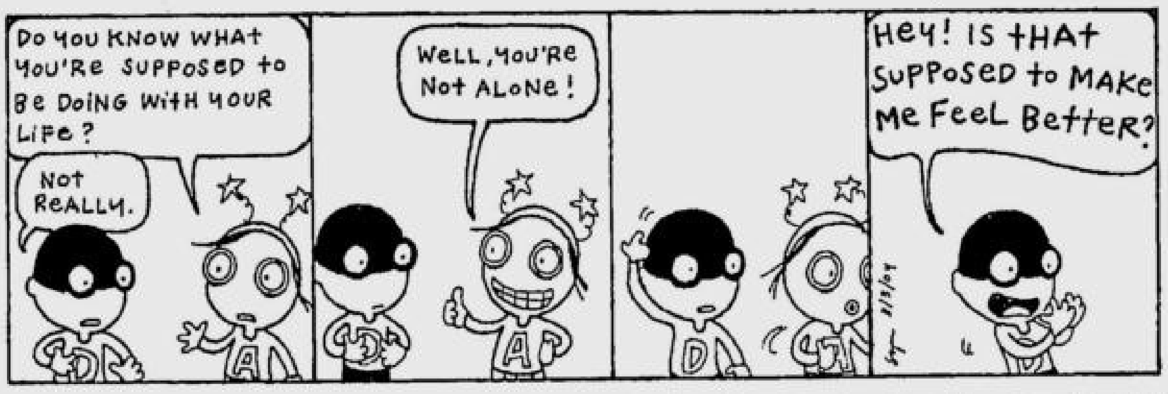
MARVIN BY TOM ARMSTRONG


SLIDE DOWN...? DON'T SLIDE DOWN. SLIDE DOWN...? DON'T SLIDE DOWN. SLIDE DOWN...?
SWOOSH
SPLAT!
8-3
A BOY AND A DOG... IT'S A BEAUTIFUL THING

BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT


I DON'T THINK WREN FEELS GOOD.
REALLY?
YOU'RE RIGHT. SHE HAS A FEVER.
I KNEW IT!
HOW COULD YOU TELL?
EXPERIENCE.
WHENEVER OUR KIDS ARE BEHAVING EXCEPTIONALLY WELL, CHANCES ARE THEY'RE SICK.
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO


Do you know what you're supposed to be doing with your life?
Not really.
Well, you're not alone!
Hey! Is that supposed to make me feel better?

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You're brave, courageous and enormously idealistic. Anyone would want you in his or her corner. You're determined, and you're noble. You're not afraid to defend unpopular causes. In fact, risky and daring activities thrill you. You're a hero, although you don't try to be. This year might be one of the best years of your life. Dream big.
Birthdate of: Martin Sheen, actor; Martha Stewart, domestic diva; P.D. James, mystery writer.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Early in the day, you have a strong sense of resolve about taking care of matters you've been avoiding at home. You've decided to just bite the bullet and do it.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Discussions with somebody older or more experienced than you can yield a bit of helpful advice. You might know this person, or perhaps a passing encounter with a stranger.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): You feel sensible and practical at work today. You might make suggestions to your boss along these lines. You're concerned with long-term benefits .

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): You don't feel very frivolous today. Quite the opposite, you feel rather sensible and practical. (Go ahead and have dessert anyhow—just skip the ice cream on the side.)

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): This is a good day to finish up old business about shared property and anything held jointly with someone. You're in the mood to do business. You're ready to tackle the task at hand.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): If you have to deal with members of the public today, you appear to be calm, sensible and direct. People will think you know what you're talking about. (Appearances are everything.)

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Advice from a coworker who is older or more experienced can be valuable today. Don't be too quick to dismiss a suggestion from an unlikely source.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): You're prepared to work hard to hone your skills, especially creatively, or to perfect a technique that you want to master. Practice makes perfect—and if not perfect, at least a lot better!

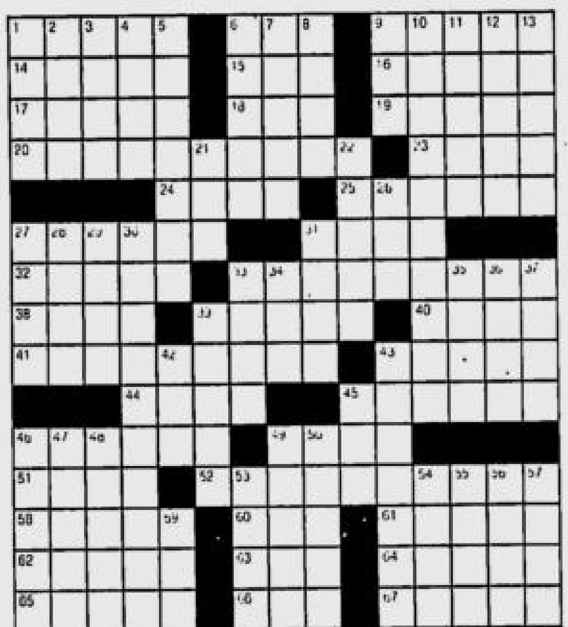
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Whatever you do at home today, or say to a family member, might have an impact for a long time in the future. It's a small thing, but it has staying power.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Today, benefits will come to you through the willing acceptance of duty. (Yes, you are trapped in a Grant Wood painting.)

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): You do not feel frivolous about money today. Quite the contrary. If you part with your money now, you want a long-term value.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): You're willing to put out the effort to improve your creative skills in something today. You might also teach children something historical.

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Robert H. Wolfe
North Woodmere, NY
8/3/04

ACROSS
1 Los Angeles basketball player
6 Healing waters
9 Semitic people
14 Animated
15 Writer's tool
16 Backless sofa
17 Anglesey or Wight
18 Charleson or Carmichael
19 Music of a movie
20 Lineman?
23 Make additions to staff
24 Membership fees
25 Container
27 Emulated Nicklaus
31 Prepared-food shop
32 Ph.D. exams
33 Radar setup
38 Caesar's being
39 Crimean resident
40 Forum attire
41 Part of an American Beauty
43 Hurries
44 Head honcho
45 Gives in
46 Attack
49 Great Plains tribe
51 Alan Arkin movie
52 Serviceman?
58 Old-womanish
60 Had a pizza
61 Sound like a frog
62 Merits
63 Jewel
64 Select group
65 Three-spots
66 Afore
67 Play parts

DOWN
1 Placed
2 Too
3 Brick-lined oven
4 Always
5 Lives
6 "She's Gotta Have It" director Lee
7 Rings recurrently
8 Meara or Archer
9 TV spots
10 Ape-man?
11 Stay away from
12 Wilkes-__, PA
13 Look of contempt
21 Bovine chew
22 See-through
26 No spring chicken
27 Church or movie add-on
28 About
29 Gal
30 Barman?
31 Pass out the cards
33 Srs. exams
34 Sch. group
35 Churn up
36 Grew up
37 Go by
39 Inventor Nikola
42 Taro paste
43 More cutthroat
45 Second person
46 Not together
47 Sub's ears?
48 Malice
49 Aquatic mammal
50 Motif
53 Furor
54 Woody Guthrie's son
55 Dirty
56 Abhor
57 Scrapes (by)
59 Capital of Spain?

Monday's Puzzle Solved

S	C	A	L	P	■	O	A	R	■	H	I	D	E	S
E	L	L	I	E	■	D	N	A	■	A	T	R	I	A
T	I	G	E	R	M	O	T	H	■	S	H	A	N	K
U	N	I	F	I	E	R	S	■	S	T	A	G	E	S
P	E	D	■	G	A	S	■	C	H	I	C	O	■	■
■	■	■	D	E	N	■	S	R	I	L	A	N	K	A
I	M	B	U	E	■	Q	U	E	R	Y	■	F	I	G
R	O	U	E	■	O	U	T	E	R	■	E	L	L	E
A	R	M	■	C	L	A	R	K	■	P	R	Y	O	R
N	E	B	R	A	S	K	A	■	O	U	R	■	■	■
■	■	L	E	V	E	E	■	O	W	L	■	L	A	T
O	R	E	G	O	N	■	D	R	E	S	S	A	G	E
D	E	B	A	R	■	M	U	D	D	A	U	B	E	R
I	N	E	R	T	■	O	D	E	■	R	E	I	N	S
N	E	E	D	S	■	P	E	R	■	S	T	A	T	E

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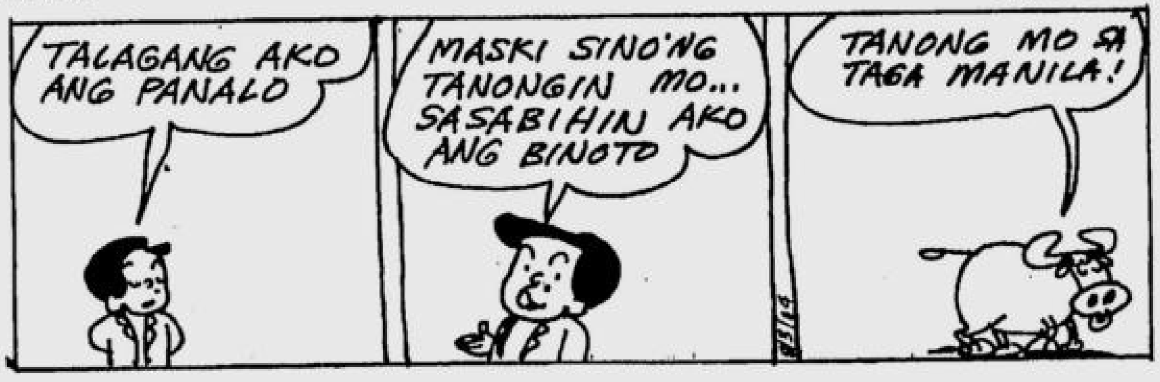
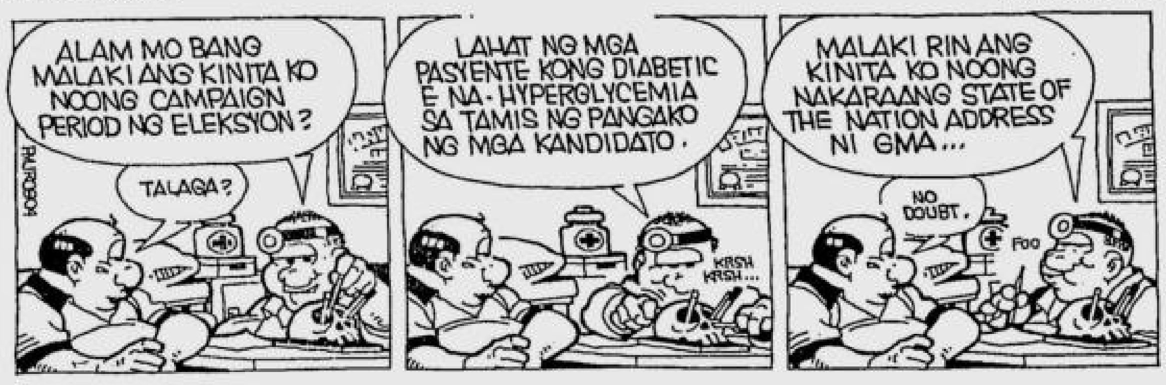
8/3/04

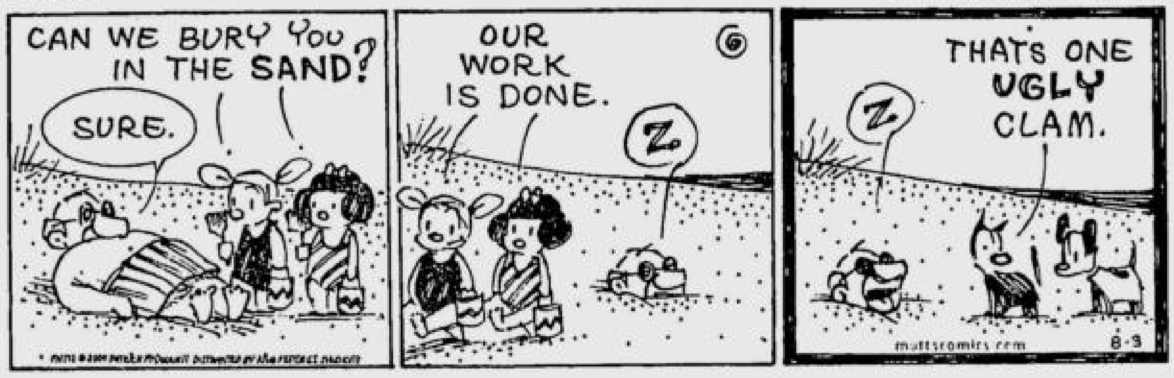
A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA


TALAGANG AKO ANG PANALO
MASKI SINO'NG TANONGIN MO... SASABIHIN AKO ANG BINOTO
TANONG MO SA TAGA MANILA!

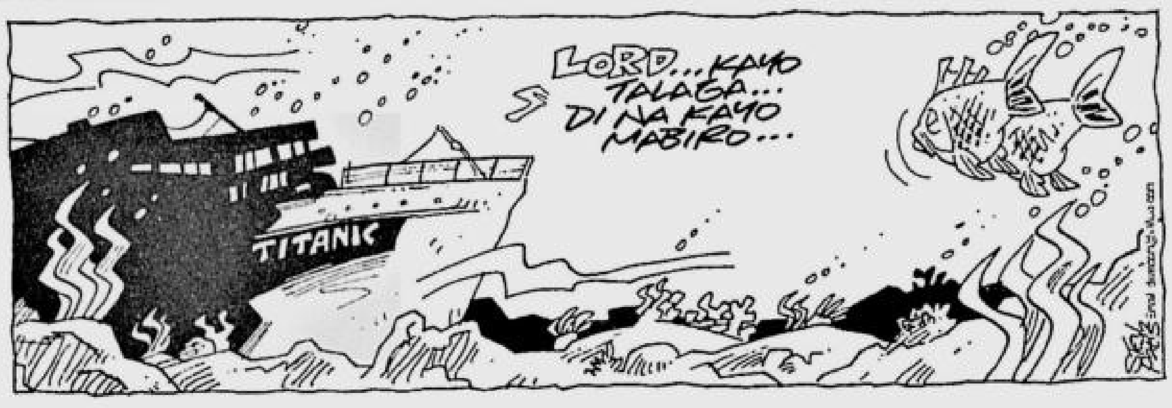
PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR


ALAM MO BANG MALAKI ANG KINITA KO NOONG CAMPAIGN PERIOD NG ELEKSYON?
TALAGA?
LAHAT NG MGA PASYENTE KONG DIABETIC E NA-HYPERGLYCEMIA SA TAMIS NG PANGAKO NG MGA KANDIDATO.
KRSH KRSH...
MALAKI RIN ANG KINITA KO NOONG NAKARAANG STATE OF THE NATION ADDRESS NI GMA...
NO DOUBT.
FOO

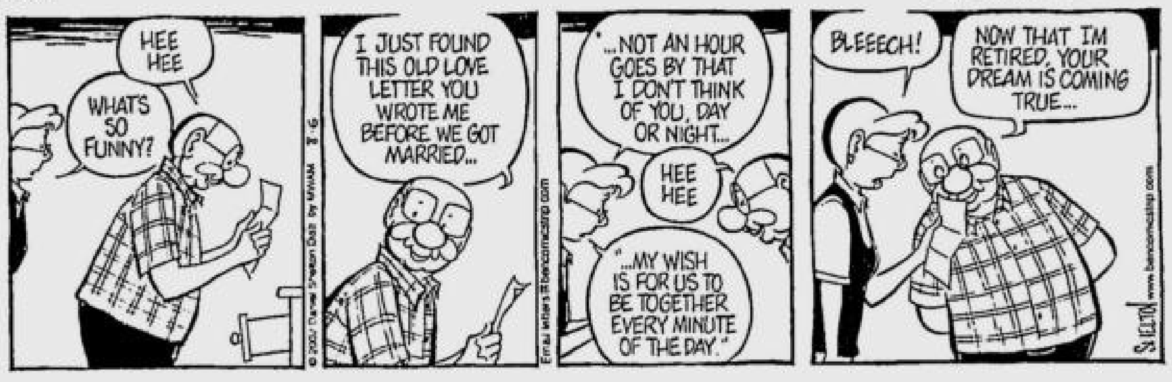
MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL


CAN WE BURY YOU IN THE SAND?
SURE.
OUR WORK IS DONE.
Z
Z
THAT'S ONE UGLY CLAM.
muttscomics.com
8-3

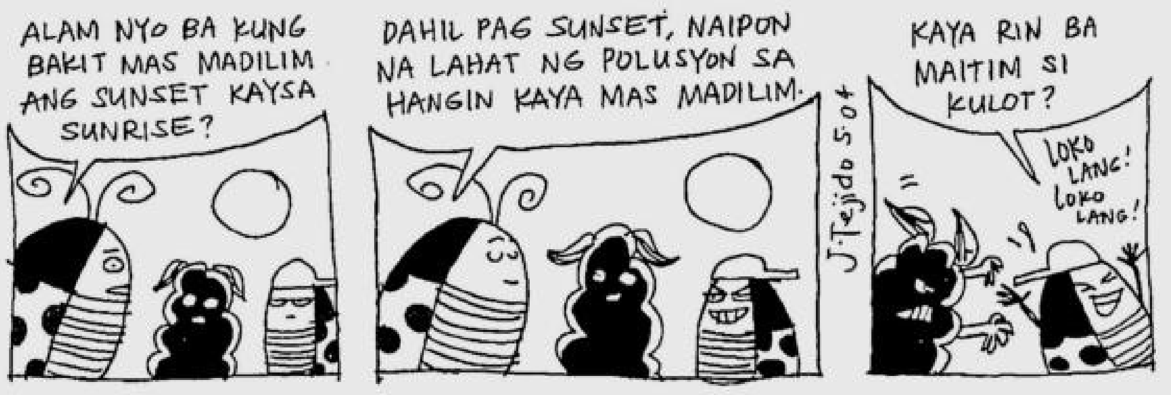
DIVINE COMEDY BY STEVEN PABALINAS


LORD... KAYO TALAGA... DI NA KAYO MABIRO...
TITANIC

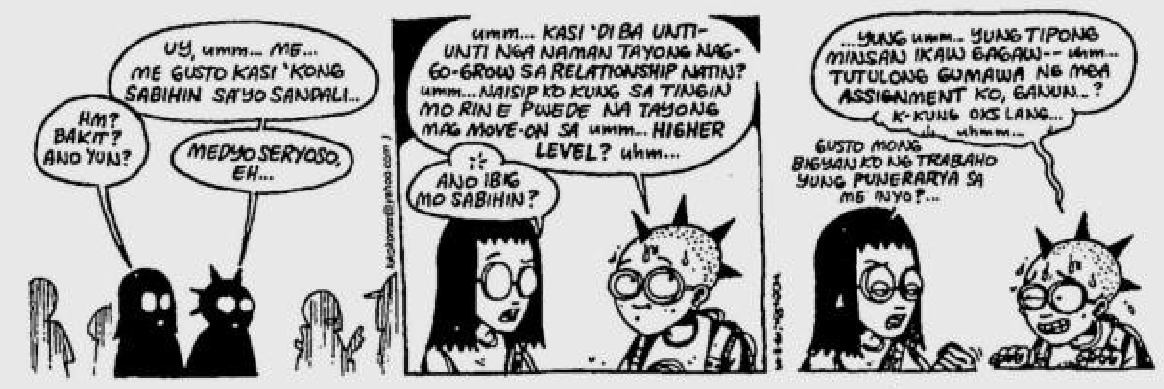
BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON


HEE HEE
WHAT'S SO FUNNY?
I JUST FOUND THIS OLD LOVE LETTER YOU WROTE ME BEFORE WE GOT MARRIED...
"...NOT AN HOUR GOES BY THAT I DON'T THINK OF YOU, DAY OR NIGHT...
HEE HEE
"...MY WISH IS FOR US TO BE TOGETHER EVERY MINUTE OF THE DAY."
BLEEECH!
NOW THAT I'M RETIRED, YOUR DREAM IS COMING TRUE...

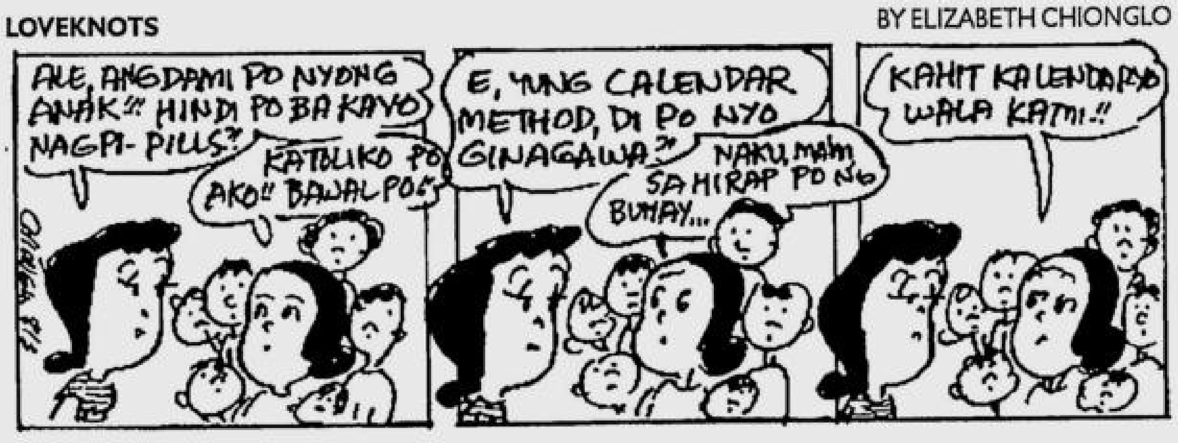
MIKROKOSMOS BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


ALAM NYO BA KUNG BAKIT MAS MADILIM ANG SUNSET KAYSA SUNRISE?
DAHIL PAG SUNSET, NAIPON NA LAHAT NG POLUSYON SA HANGIN KAYA MAS MADILIM.
J.Tejido 5.04
KAYA RIN BA MAITIM SI KULOT?
LOKO LANG! LOKO LANG!

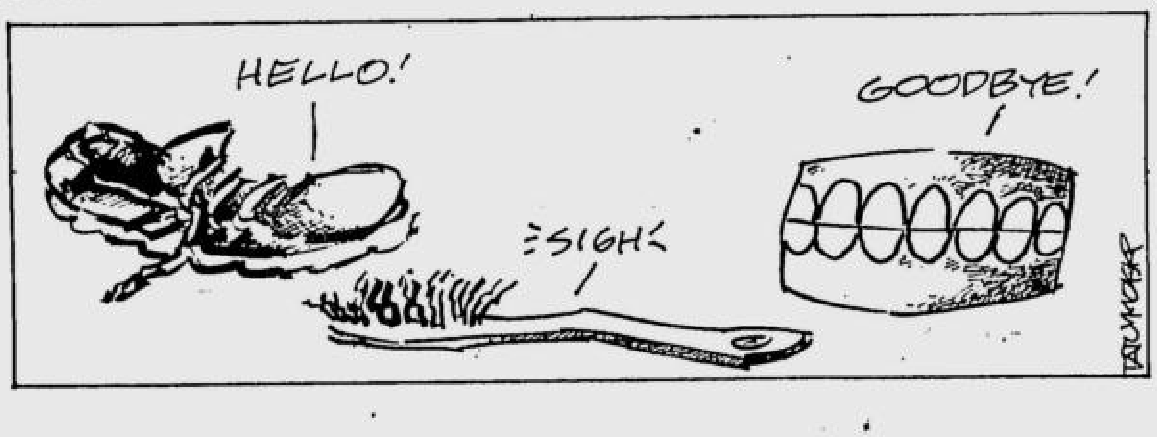
KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA


UY, umm... ME... ME GUSTO KASI 'KONG SABIHIN SA'YO SANDALI...
HM? BAKIT? ANO YUN?
MEDYO SERYOSO, EH...
umm... KASI 'DI BA UNTI-UNTI NGA NAMAN TAYONG NAG-GO-GROW SA RELATIONSHIP NATIN? umm... NAISIP KO KUNG SA TINGIN MO RIN E PWEDE NA TAYONG MAG MOVE-ON SA umm... HIGHER LEVEL? uhm...
ANO IBIG MO SABIHIN?
...YUNG umm... YUNG TIPONG MINSAN IKAW GAGAW-- uhm... TUTULONG GUMAWA NG MGA ASSIGNMENT KO, GANUN..? K-KUNG OKS LANG... uhmm...
GUSTO MONG BIGYAN KO NG TRABAHO YUNG PUNERARYA SA MG INYO?...

LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


ALE, ANG DAMI PO NYONG ANAK!! HINDI PO BA KAYO NAGPI-PILLS?
KATOLIKO PO AKO!! BAWAL PO!
E, YUNG CALENDAR METHOD, DI PO NYO GINAGAWA?
NAKU, MAM SA HIRAP PO NG BUHAY...
KAHIT KALENDARYO WALA KAMI!!

TULDOK BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


HELLO!
GOODBYE!
=SIGH=
TATUMOSA

Young stars come into their own

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

THE MEDIAN age of moviegoers is supposed to be getting younger each year, but the dominant stars in Hollywood these days are still male and on the wrong side of 30 (**Keanu Reeves, Denzel Washington, Mel Gibson, Brad Pitt, Harrison Ford, Pierce Brosnan,** etc.)

This must be because top movie blockbusters are usually of the action-drama-adventure sort, and most such big-budget films topbill relatively mature male superstars.

Slowly but surely, however, young-adult and teen talents have been making inroads into the mature male stars' turf. On the distaff side, the current young-adult leading lights include **Julia Stiles, Kirsten Dunst,** and **Mandy Moore.**

Even younger comers are **Hillary Duff** and **Anne Hathaway,** two comely and gifted talents who are being built up as the new "teen queens" of Hollywood.

While **Britney Spears** and **Christina Aguilera** used to be described as "pop princesses," they have opted to establish themselves as young-adult sex kittens. This has left the teen field wide open to fresh talents like Duff and Hathaway, who have wasted no time in vivifying high school girls' growing-up angst.

Duff became a household name among "tweens" in 2001 as a klutzy middle-schooler on "Lizzie McGuire" on TV, before bringing the character to the big screen.

Her latest movie, "A Cinderalla Story," has the bubbly actress battling a wicked stepmother as well as the "popular" but vicious high school crowd in an update on the well-loved fairy tale.

For her part, Anne Hathaway returns in "The Princess Diaries 2: Royal Engagement," where she again plays Mia, the San Francisco teener and reluctant royal who gains poise and confidence under the tutelage of her grandmother, Queen Clarisse (**Julie Andrews**).

Princess Mia is now a self-assured young woman and has graduated from college. She discovers that she may be expected to compromise her beliefs and values in order to become queen, and she has to learn to define her own boundaries. In the course of that struggle, she gains a lot of self-esteem.

Both young stars' new starrers may be breezily entertaining, but parents like them because they also impart values that young viewers who empathize with Duff and Hathaway can also acquire.

Such issues as coping with negative influences, responsibility, sacrifice, self-expression and self-knowledge are relevant to young people today, even if they aren't royal or show biz princesses, so the teen actresses' new movies are eagerly awaited by their intended audience.

Duff welcomes the "responsibility" of influencing her peers to grow up well. She says it's flattering to be a role model for millions of young girls. She shares, "If they want to accomplish something and they see how I'm trying to fulfill my own goals, that's really cool." Would that other young stars were as focused, purposeful and responsible.

Feedback

FROM outstanding stage actress (Bebeng) **Sevilla Soriano:** "Am suddenly inspired! Why don't you write the script for **Nora Aunor's** next acclaimed portrayal? You know her past--what was useful, useless; yearn for artistic excellence—lasting, deep; see through techniques; can write beyond mere critiques.

"For Nora's acting pointers, look up **Ginnie Sobrino,** formerly of FEU's Communication Department, who has stage acted with her.

"Do so."

NUT: Truth to tell, Bebeng, Nora has already asked us to write and direct her in a worthy, challenging project, and we're looking for the best possible material for her for that project. Thanks for your vote of confidence.

Video conference/workshop

AT 5 p.m. on Aug. 18, the British Council Knowledge and Learning Center (call 914-1011) will be the venue for a video conference/workshop to discuss contemporary book illustration and writing for children's literature.

Kim Reynolds, director of the National Research for Children's Literature in the UK, has been invited to talk with local book illustrators, publishers, educators and librarians.

This is in conjunction with the Magic Pencil Exhibit, a touring exhibition of 60 facsimile prints of original artworks by 13 of the UK's most accomplished and celebrated illustrators. The exhibit is in partnership with the Ang Ilustrador ng Kabataan, an association of Filipino book illustrators.

OPENS TOMORROW!
MTRCB RATING ▶ R-13
STRICTLY FOR 13 YEARS OF AGE AND ABOVE
You can erase someone from your mind.
Getting them out of your heart is another story.
"One of the great movie love stories ever told."
– Glenn Whipp
LOS ANGELES DAILY NEWS
Jim CARREY
Kate WINSLET
ETERNAL SUNSHINE of the spotless mind
Kirsten DUNST
Elijah WOOD
UNIVERSAL
MAGIC

RJTV's 'All The Way' a nightly habit

RJTV's flagship program, "Jojo A. All The Way..." seen live from 9 p.m. to 10 p.m. Monday to Friday, is winning more and more viewers with its mix of light and serious talk, humor and phoned-in opinion.

ALEJAR

Hosted by Jojo Alejar, "All the Way" is seen on RJTV 29 and simulcast on cable channels (Sky 61, Home 57, Destiny 87 and Sun 65). Its guests include big names in business, politics and entertainment, as well as its own viewers.

An interesting facet of the show is its non-conformist attitude and presentation. It starts with an introduction by its host, whose monologue snowballs into witticisms aimed at politicians, businesses and show business personalities, but the wit is never a put-down of anybody or anything.

SHOW TIME

The show's segments include the Top 10, used by David Letterman but adapted to the Filipino audience, and Live Talks, where callers talk to the host on air about everything and anything. Callers are as young as 7, and a mixture of students and young professionals, mothers and senior citizens.

For a growing number of people, "Jojo A. All the Way" has become a nightly after-dinner habit. It is always good to have a smile before going to sleep and "Jojo A. All the Way" can make viewers do that.

OPENS TOMORROW!
MTRCB ▶ PG-13
MANGINGINIG KAYO SA TAKOT !!!
Dead People
THEY'RE DYING TO MEET YOU

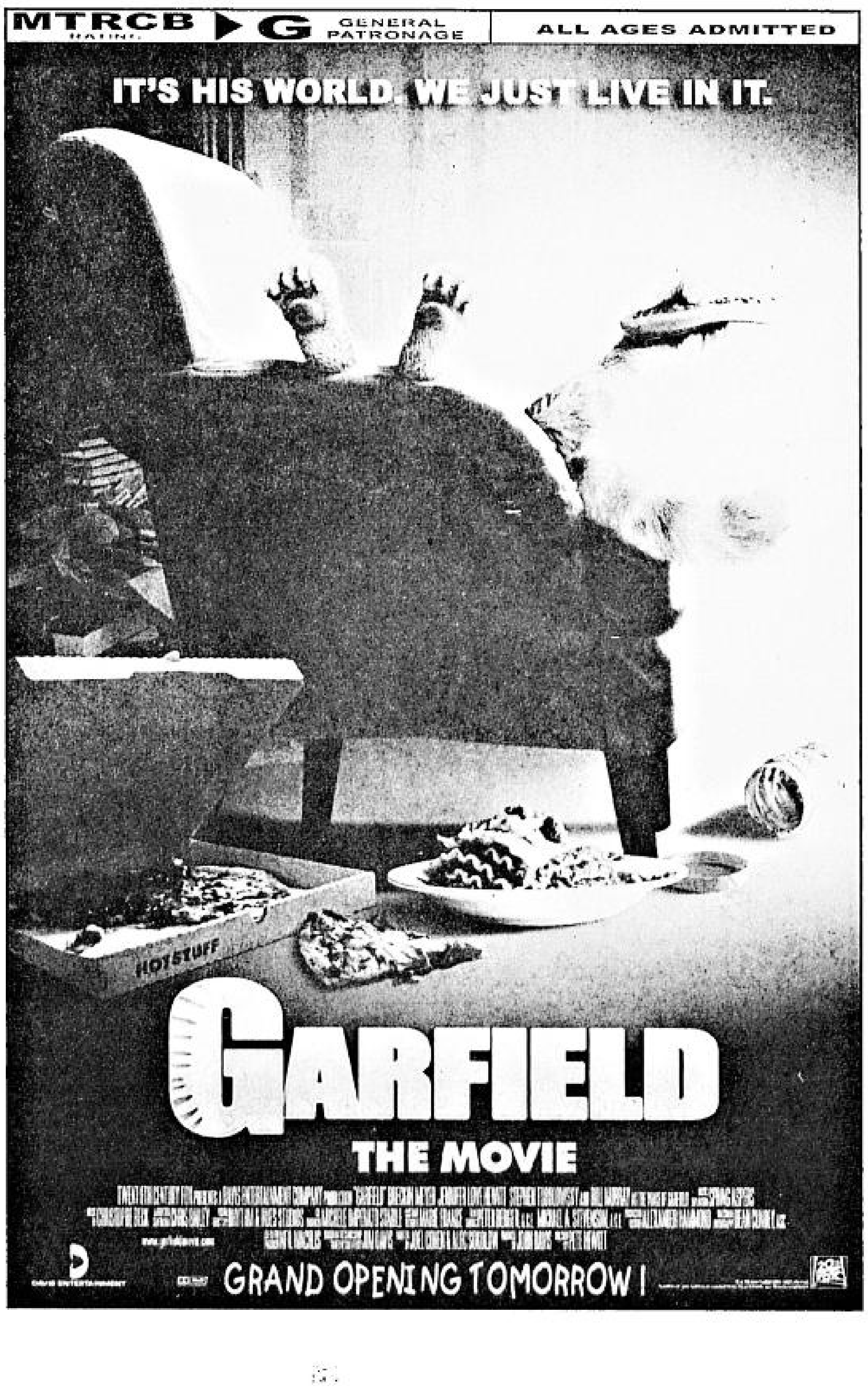
Cage marries former waitress

LOS ANGELES—Oscar-winning US actor Nicolas Cage on Friday married his former sushi waitress girlfriend, Alice Kim, 20, just two months after finalizing his divorce from Lisa Marie Presley, reports said.

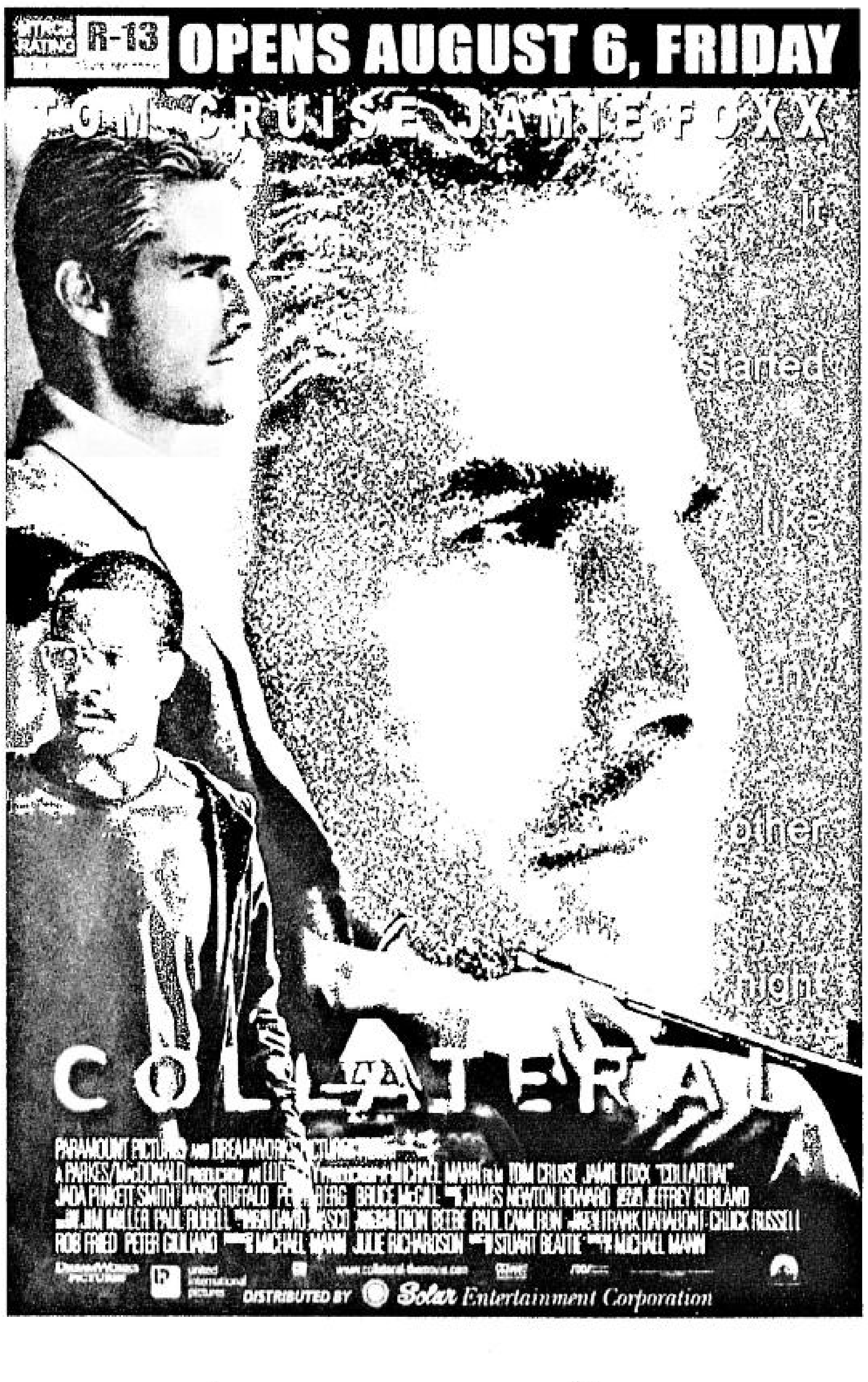
The Hollywood star tied the knot with the Korean-American, who he met five months ago when she served him in a Los Angeles restaurant, at a private ceremony in northern California, the entertainment press said.

E-Online and other industry publications quoted Cage's spokeswoman as confirming the marriage, Cage's third and Kim's first, took place on a ranch far from the spotlights of Hollywood.

Cage's marriage to Elvis Presley's daughter ended in May, although they split up just three and a half months after their August 2002 wedding in Hawaii. *AFP*



MTRCB RATING ▶ G GENERAL PATRONAGE
ALL AGES ADMITTED
IT'S HIS WORLD. WE JUST LIVE IN IT.
HOTSTUFF
GARFIELD
THE MOVIE
GRAND OPENING TOMORROW!



MTRCB RATING R-13
OPENS AUGUST 6, FRIDAY
TOM CRUISE JAMIE FOXX
started
like
other
night
COLLATERAL
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Paolo V: Pain is an inspiration

From page A28

was offered to be in the cast of television shows and movies, including "Kuya" for Regal Films and "My First Romance" for Star Cinema, but he had to turn them down because he didn't want his studies to suffer.

"I'm close to both my parents," he says. "I enjoy going mountain biking with my dad. Sometimes we play ultimate frisbee. And I talk to my mom a lot.

"In my rebellious days, I always confided in my mom. She went through it all, so she understood me better. *Pagdating sa* girls *naman*, I always talk to my dad because he understands me more in that area. My mom is biased. She'd say it's always the guy's fault."

Paolo, who likes to change hairstyles every two months, says he is grateful that his dad's talent for writing songs and singing has rubbed off on him. He just finished recording a demo tape of a song he wrote, "Admirer," on the basis of which Star Records offered him a contract.

"I wrote the song after I broke up with my girlfriend and I was even crying when I sang it," he confesses. "Pain is one of my greatest inspirations."

Paolo, along with Gabriel and Kiana, will be joining Gary V on Aug. 6 at the Araneta Coliseum in Gary V's concert, "Gary V...Thankful."

That day is also Gary's 40th birthday and his and Angeli's 20th wedding anniversary, as well as Angeli's own 25th anniversary in show biz. Gary then begins the 26th year of his victory over diabetes.

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NOW SHOWING

GALLERIA
632-9115 to 16

Cinema	Title	Times
CINEMA 1 THX	I, ROBOT	11:40, 2:10, 4:40, 7:10, 9:40
2	CATWOMAN	10:20, 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00
3	IMELDA	10:45, 1:00, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10:00
4	CATWOMAN	12:10, 2:30, 4:50, 7:10, 9:30
5	ELLA ENCHANTED	12:20, 2:40, 5:00, 7:20, 9:40
6	SPIDER-MAN 2	12:10, 2:30, 4:50, 7:10, 9:30
7	KING ARTHUR	11:40, 2:15, 4:50, 7:25, 10:00
8	BEAUTIFUL LIFE	12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00
9	AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS	11:40, 2:10, 4:40, 7:10, 9:40
10	ALONG CAME POLLY	11:40, 1:40, 3:40, 5:40, 7:40, 9:40

MATINEE: Monday to Friday/ 10 am-4pm except holidays
Matinee Price: P80 for one level cinemas
Regular Price: P150 THX / P95/65 for two levels cinemas / P95 for one level cinemas

ERMITA
536-7809 to 12

Cinema	Title	Times
1	CATWOMAN	10:10, 12:30, 2:55, 5:20, 7:45, 10:00
2	AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS	11:10, 1:50, 4:30, 7:10, 9:50
3	I, ROBOT	10:10, 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50
4	BEAUTIFUL LIFE	11:30, 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:40
5	ELLA ENCHANTED	10:20, 12:30, 2:45, 5:00, 7:15, 9:40
6	CATWOMAN	11:55, 2:20, 4:45, 7:10, 9:30
7	KING ARTHUR	10:20, 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00

METRO EAST
682-8193/99 / 682-8280

Cinema	Title	Times
1	IMELDA	11:20, 1:40, 4:00, 6:20, 9:00
2	CATWOMAN	12:30, 3:10, 5:50, 8:30, 10:35
3	KING ARTHUR	10:40, 1:10, 3:40, 6:10, 9:00
4	BEAUTIFUL LIFE	11:50, 2:30, 5:10, 7:50, 10:30
5	I, ROBOT	11:20, 1:40, 4:00, 6:20, 9:00
6	ELLA ENCHANTED	10:50, 12:50, 2:50, 4:50, 6:50, 9:00
7	CATWOMAN	10:25, 1:05, 3:45, 6:25, 9:05
8	SPIDER-MAN 2	10:35, 1:05, 3:35, 6:10, 9:00

NOVALICHES / FAIRVIEW
935-3229 / 31

Cinema	Title	Times
1	CATWOMAN	10:15, 12:45, 3:15, 5:45, 8:25
2	I, ROBOT	12:10, 2:50, 5:30, 8:20
3	KING ARTHUR	11:00, 1:25, 3:50, 6:15, 8:40
4	ALONG CAME POLLY	10:50, 12:50, 2:45, 4:40, 6:35, 8:30
5	ELLA ENCHANTED	11:00, 1:20, 3:40, 6:00, 8:30
6	SPIDER-MAN 2	11:00, 1:25, 3:50, 6:15, 8:40
7	AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS	11:20, 1:40, 4:00, 6:20, 8:40
8	THE PRINCE AND ME	11:30, 1:45, 4:00, 6:15, 8:30

Citisquare MALABON
288-0985/2575

1	I, ROBOT
2	CATWOMAN
3	BEAUTIFUL LIFE
4	ELLA ENCHANTED

CAINTA
240-4661

1	CATWOMAN
2	ELLA ENCHANTED
3	I, ROBOT
4	BEAUTIFUL LIFE

STA. ROSA
(049)837-0907

1	CATWOMAN
2	BEAUTIFUL LIFE
3	MEAN GIRLS
4	THE PRINCE AND ME
5	I, ROBOT

LIPA
757-3664 / 312-5870

1	CATWOMAN
2	KING ARTHUR
3	THE PRINCE AND ME
4	IMELDA
5	I, ROBOT

DASMARIÑAS
852-2125 / 416-4332

1	ALONG CAME POLLY
2	I, ROBOT
3	CATWOMAN
4	PERLAS
5	THE PRINCE AND ME

STARMILLS
Sn. Fernando, Pampanga
875-1927 / 961-5270

1	ALONG CAME POLLY
2	BEAUTIFUL LIFE
3	CATWOMAN
4	THE PRINCE AND ME
5	CATWOMAN
6	I, ROBOT

IMUS
471-8188 / 875-5858

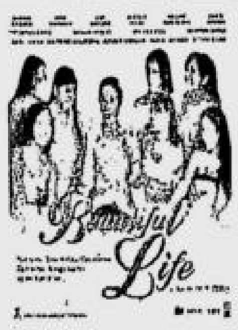
1	CATWOMAN
2	I, ROBOT
3	ELLA ENCHANTED
4	CATWOMAN
5	AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS
6	ALONG CAME POLLY

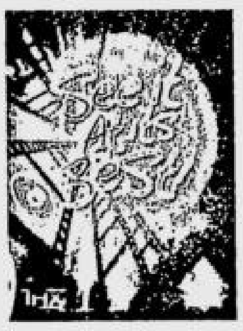
BACOLOD
441-0458/59

1	KING ARTHUR
2	ELLA ENCHANTED
3	CATWOMAN
4	MEAN GIRLS
5	I, ROBOT
6	IMELDA

ILOILO
336-8070/78

1	CATWOMAN
2	I, ROBOT
3	SPARTAN
4	KING ARTHUR
5	LIBERATED 2
6	ALONG CAME POLLY





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MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

Cinema	Title	Times	Rating
1	CATWOMAN	11:35, 2:10, 4:45 7:20, 10:05	GP
2	CATWOMAN	12:00, 2:35, 5:10, 7:45, 10:30	GP
3	I, ROBOT	11:45, 2:20, 4:55, 7:30, 10:20	PG-13
4	ELLA ENCHANTED	12:40, 3:00, 5:20 7:40, 10:20	GP

POWER PLANT CINEMA

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DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

Title	Rating	Times
ELLA ENCHANTED	GP	12:00,2:00,4:00, 6:00,8:00,10:00
I, ROBOT	PG13	12:10,2:40,5:10,7:40,10:10
CATWOMAN	GP	12:10,2:35,5:00,7:25,9:50
IMELDA	GP	12:40,3:00,5:20,7:40,10:00
ALONG CAME POLLY	PG13	1:00,3:00,5:00,7:00,9:00
CATWOMAN	GP	12:50,3:15,5:40,8:05,10:30

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Cinema	Title	Times	Rating
CINEMA 1	CATWOMAN	10:50, 1:05, 3:20, 5:35, 7:50, 10:10	GP
CINEMA 2	I. ROBOT	11:10, 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00	PG-13

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WILL SMITH
I, ROBOT
THREE LAWS PROTECT US FROM THEM.. BUT LAWS ARE MADE TO BE BROKEN.
NOW SHOWING

Araneta Center ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

ALI MALL CINEPLEX

Cinema	Sound	Title	Times
3	Dolby	CATWOMAN	12:00 nn 2:15 pm 4:30 pm 6:45 pm 9:00 pm
4	SDDS	I, ROBOT	12:50 pm 3:30 pm 6:10 pm 8:50 pm
5	dts	ELLA ENCHANTED	11:40 am 2:00 pm 4:20 pm 6:40 pm 9:00 pm
6	Dolby	IMELDA	11:00 am 1:00 pm 3:00 pm 5:00 pm 7:00 pm 9:00 pm
7	Dolby	BEAUTIFUL LIFE	11:35 am 1:55 pm 4:15 pm 6:35 pm 8:55 pm

ARANETA COLISEUM

Date	Event
Aug 6	GARY V CONCERT
Aug 7	UAAP: La Salle vs. U E
Aug 8	UAAP: F E U vs. Ateneo
Aug 12	UAAP Game- 2nd ROUND
Aug 13	NIGHT OF THE CHAMPIONS THE REPEAT
Aug 14	UAAP Game- 2nd ROUND
Aug 15	CCF WORSHIP SERVICE

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THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

MANILA

Theater	Showing
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	SEX BOMB / RAMPADORA
ODEON	X-MEN 2
ODEON-2	BUKID AY BASA / KASIBULAN
ROBEN	BOLD STAR
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	SPY / LEGEND OF CROCODILE

QUEZON CITY

Theater	Showing
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	KARELASYON
CORONET B	A MAN APART
QUEZON-1	BERTUD NG PUTIK
REMAR	X-MEN 2
REMAR-2	BOLD STAR

NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA

Theater	Showing
A	HIRAM
B	CLOSED
C	

MANDALUYONG CITY

Theater	Showing
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA 1 & 2	I ROBOT / CATWOMAN
PREMIERE THEATRE	IMELDA

CAINTA RIZAL

Theater	Showing
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	GHOST HOUSE (RE-ISSUE)
CINEMA-2	PERLAS
CINEMA-3	SPIDERMAN 2
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	I ROBOT
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	PRINCE & ME
CINEMA-6	KILL BILL VOL 2
CINEMA-7	WEREWOLF
CINEMA-8	LIBERATED 2
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	I ROBOT
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	I ROBOT
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	SPIDERMAN 2
CINEMA-12	KING ARTHUR
CINEMA-14	ALONG CAME POLLY
CINEMA-15	AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS

LORES

Theater	Showing
CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT

NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN

Theater	Showing
(LAS PINAS)	SPIDERMAN 2
CINEMA-1	LADY KILLERS
CINEMA-2	I ROBOT
CINEMA-4	RESERVED

UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL

Theater	Showing
(PARANAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA

In my ma's absence, a year later

DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Ann Carvajal

IT'S my mom's birthday on Aug. 6. It will be the very first time that we will be celebrating it without her physically around anymore.

For my mom's loyal followers, ma's birthday is like a holiday. When she was alive, they paid homage to her on the eve of her birthday and the revelry went on for a week or so. As early as Aug. 1, our house would begin to look like a flower and bake shop with all the floral arrangements and cakes my mom received, not to mention the array of *lechon*.

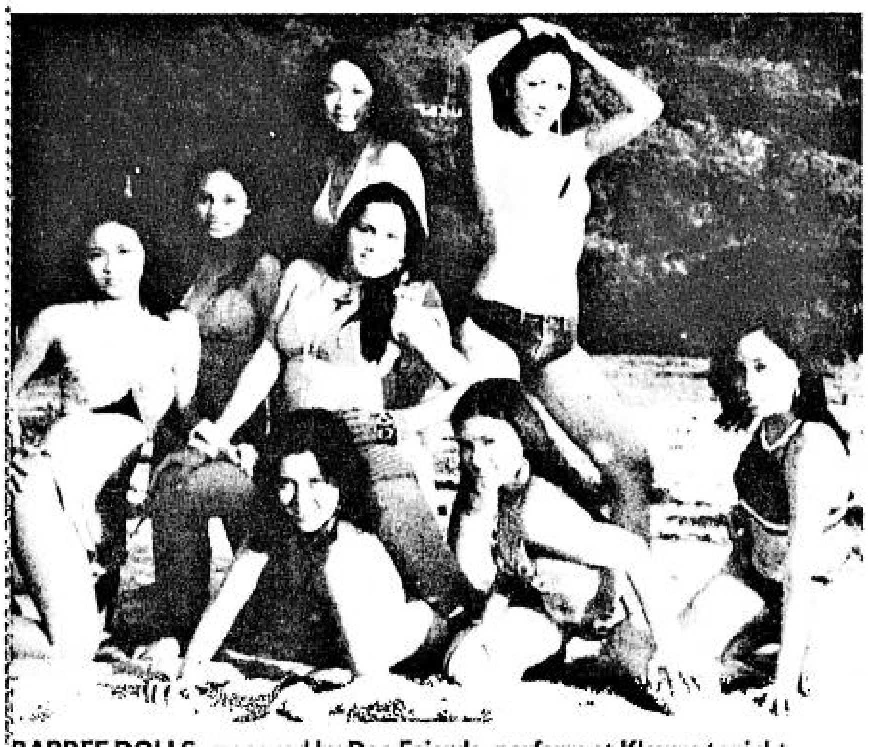
I remember how my brother **Ricky**, sister **Clara** and I would kid around saying that for the next days all we would eat were *paksiw na lechon, lechon kawali* and other *lechon* recipes until all the *lechon* in the kitchen was gone.

I miss opening ma's gifts for her and asking the ones I fancied. Ma loved to tell the story about this actress who opened a gift and said in dismay, "Why do these towels have YSL printed on them? Those are my initials!" The actress gave the towels to my ma who could not control her laughter.

Oh! Remembering my ma's signature throaty laughter is like feeling her hand on my weary shoulders. If there's one thing about my ma I really miss, it's her ability to find joy in the simplest of things. She always preferred the company of her "alalays" over that of her high-profile friends. Ma would get a kick out of listening to the naive comments of her favorite helper Tasing about her sex life, like why her husband Intoy couldn't use a condom, or how she could tell if Intoy slept with another woman.

On Sept. 26, it will be a year since my ma went ahead to reserve a room in heaven for us. The pain will never leave me but I get solace from all the lessons that come with it. In my ma's presence, I have learned much. But in her absence, I have learned more.

Happy, happy birthday, ma! Every time I write, I remember you. You showed me what it's like to write from the heart. "Ma" was the very first word I uttered as a kid and for sure it will be my last word when my heart stops beating as you welcome me in your sweet embrace.



BARBEE DOLLS, managed by Deo Fajardo, perform at Klowns tonight.

'WONDERful'

Who hasn't fallen in love with a **Stevie Wonder** song? For my generation, Stevie Wonder is a legend, a well respected singer-songwriter who saw the beauty of the world through his music, despite the fact that he is visually challenged.

I remember my mom telling me how gifted Stevie Wonder was as an artist and how passionate and generous he was about his craft. My mom, who was so fond of sunflowers, particularly liked the song "You are the Sunshine of My Life" among Stevie Wonder's many hits.

I was overjoyed when I learned about this upcoming concert that will feature Stevie Wonder classics. The concert, titled "Simply WONDERful," will be at the Aliw Theater of the CCP Complex on Aug. 14.

To sing Stevie Wonder songs are **Bituin Escalante, Jimmy Bondoc**, Jay-R and the Akafellas.

"Simply WONDERful" is the first big project of former international flight attendant **Cecile Santiago-Rodgers** who set up E-motions Production Specialists. Tickets are available at all SM Ticketnet outlets. For reservations, call 0917-5305308.

Barbee Dolls and Hotdogs

MOVE over, Hotbabes and Hotmen. Here come the Pinoy Hotdogs and Barbee Dolls. They are managed by Direk **Deo J. Fajardo**, who has an eye for star material. He discovered **Robin Padilla** and was also instrumental in paving the way for **Rudy Fernandez**.

The Barbee Dolls are **Nicole Mclaine, Melissa Gould, Diwata, Irene Santiago, Jennifer Ford, Jessica Correa, Liezl Loren, Jamaica, Stephanie McCaw** and **Christine Gaw**. And the sexy studs from Pinoy Hotdogs are **Xristian Xcruz, Ferdie Guevarra, William Redmond, Marko Encarnacion, Emil Reyes, Ernest Gonzales, Jomark Vicente, Arnold Lorenzo, Alfredo de Esteban, Lance Garcia and Jude Sypongco.**

Both groups already have a VCD each out in the market. Catch their sizzling show at Klowns Araneta Center tonight.

For feedback, e-mail friends_elpueblo@yahoo.com or dollyanne@truefaithband.com

DID YOU KNOW...

Spotted dining at the poolside of the Boracay Regency on the resort island in Aklan province last week was controversial "S-Files" host and former Parañaque City mayor **Joey Marquez**. The former boyfriend of actress and TV host **Kris Aquino** was with someone whom an eyewitness described as "young" and "*tisay*."

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DAY 1 — AUGUST 4, 2004 — WEDNESDAY
Seminar Room A
1 - 4 PM Are You Ready To Open A Restaurant ? (Starting-up, Pre-opening, Daily Operations) by New York Restaurant Chef Consultancy (P300)
4 - 5 PM Branding How to compete with the "Giants" by Tropical Ice, GBSI
5 - 6 PM Financing Schemes & Other Products & Services for SMEs by Planters Bank

Seminar Room C
1 - 4 PM Toque of the City by Unilever Bestfoods Foodsolutions
4 - 6 PM Meat Processing for Business by Lourdes S. Rivera

DAY 2 — AUGUST 5, 2004 — THURSDAY
Seminar Room A
1 - 2 PM LPG Product Knowledge & Safety Seminar by Petron w/ Eduardo Antiligando
2 - 3 PM How To Start A Small Scale Business by Handyware Philippines
3 - 4 PM Advantages of acquiring Halal Certification by Dr Datu Tahir Ladasan Jr.
4 - 5 PM All About Wine by Cordon Bleau Deli Products
5 - 6 PM Health, Wealth & Longevity by Arsi Baltazar of Hewell Company

Seminar Room C
1 - 4 PM New Business Opportunites by San Miguel Corporation
4 - 7 PM "Let's Make Dough" by Johnlu Koa of Frenchbaker Hands-On (P 1000 limited to 24 participants) Gallery Participants (P200)

DAY 3 - AUGUST 6, 2004 — FRIDAY
Seminar Room A
1 - 2 PM Cooking Safe : A Worry-Free Kitchen by Shellane
2 - 3 PM Maintaining Security in Workplace by Handyware Philippines
3 - 4 PM Food & Beverage Control Systems by Performance Advantage Systems
4 - 5 PM Product Orientation of Safe Handling of Balloon Gas & Cylinder by CIGI
5 - 6 PM Business Opportunities in Water Refilling Stations by ATT Group of Co.

Seminar Room C
1 - 6 PM How To Improve & Manage Your Bakery by Universal Robina Corp. with Carolyn Alberto & Nicanor Ines

DAY 4 — AUGUST 7, 2004 — SATURDAY
Seminar Room A
12 -3 PM Food Safety Handling & Sanitation by Chef Norbert Gandler (ISCAHM)
3 - 6 PM Food & Beverage Mgt. & Cost Control by Chef Hans Schallenberg (ISCAHM)

Seminar Room C
1 - 2 PM All about Franchising by RK Franchise Consultancy
2 - 3 PM Mega Profits in Beverages by Allegro Beverage Corporation
3 - 6 PM Fruits & Vegetables Carving Course by Hotel & Restaurant Chef Association of the Philippines (P500)

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4-7 PM
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"Are You Ready To Open A Restaurant?"
(Starting-Up, Pre-Opening, Daily Operations)
by New York Chef Restaurant Consultancy
P 300.00
August 4, 2004, 1-4 PM
World Trade Center

learn from the pros

"Fruit & Vegatable Carving Course"
by Hotel and Restaurant Chefs Association of the Philippines
P 500.00
August 7, 2004, 3-6 PM
World Trade Center

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DAY 1 — AUGUST 4, 2004 — WEDNESDAY
11-12 NN Bread Display Competitions by Universal Robina
12 - 2 PM San Miguel Great Food Solutions Corporation Demo
2 - 5 PM Grand Classic Cocktail Competition By Phil. Bartender's league
5 - 6 PM Dessert by Food Magazine
6 - 7 PM Fantastic Pasta by Food magazine

DAY 2 — AUGUST 5, 2004 — THURSDAY
11 - 12 NN Cooking Made Easy by MCN Inc.
12 - 5 PM No Boundaries Salad Competition by Unilever Bestfoods Foodsolutions
5 - 6 PM Kiddie Cuisine Food Magazine
6 - 7 PM Cooking for Couples by Food Magazine

DAY 3 - AUGUST 6, 2004 — FRIDAY
11 - 12 NN Healthy Cooking by Tefal
12 - 2 PM Shellane Cooking Demo
2 - 4 PM Cosmic Chemical Corp Bakery Demo
4 - 7 PM Master Flairtending Showdown by Philippine Bartender's League

DAY 4 — AUGUST 7, 2004 — SATURDAY
11 - 12 NN Mega Fishing Cooking Demo
12 - 2 PM San Miguel Great Food Solutions Demo
2 - 4 PM Cold Kitchen Fest: Sandwich Assembly Competition By San Miguel Great Food Solutions
4 - 7 PM Quizine show by Food Magazine

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2 I, ROBOT	2 CATWOMAN	2 ELLA ENCHANTED	6 I, ROBOT	GUARANTEED SEATS THX 2 CATWOMAN 2 10, 4 30, 6.50, 9 10, 11.30	2 ELLA ENCHANTED
3 ELLA ENCHANTED	3 I, ROBOT	GUARANTEED SEATS THX 3 CATWOMAN 1 10, 3 30, 5 50, 8 10 10 30	7 IMELDA	GUARANTEED SEATS 3 ELLA ENCHANTED 2 55, 5 00, 7 05, 9 10, 11 15	3 BEAUTIFUL LIFE
4 IMELDA	4 ELLA ENCHANTED	4 KING ARTHUR		GUARANTEED SEATS 4 I, ROBOT 2 00, 4 15, 6 30, 8 45, 11 00	4 HOME ON THE RANGE
5 CATWOMAN				GUARANTEED SEATS 5 IMELDA 2 30, 4 30, 6 30, 8 30, 10 30	5 I, ROBOT

GB1 GREENBELT 1	
1	RADIO 12 40, 2.45, 4 50, 6:55, 9:00
2	CATWOMAN 12 30, 2 50, 5 10, 7 30, 9 50

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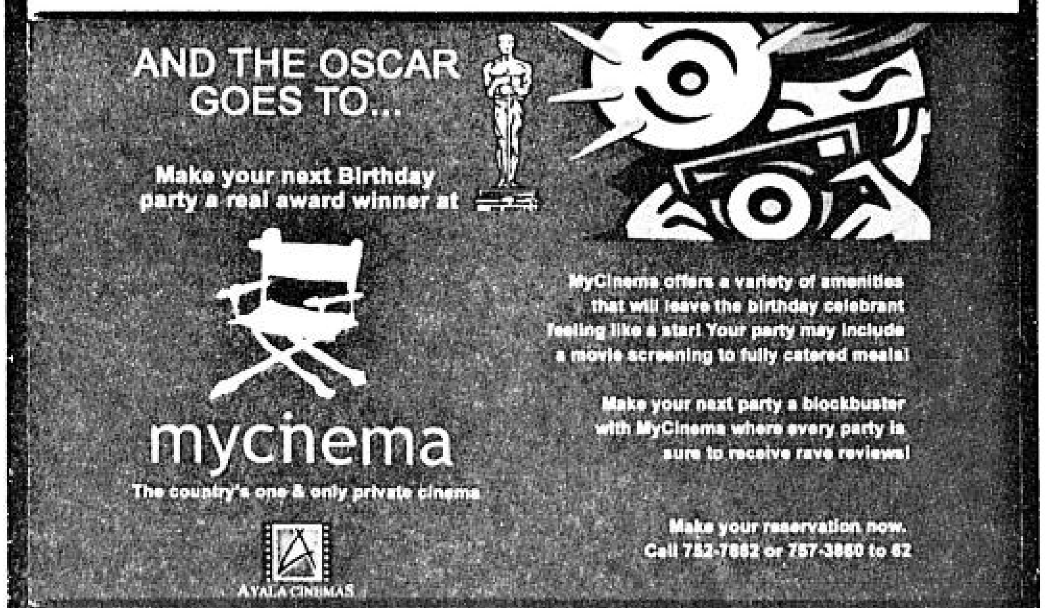

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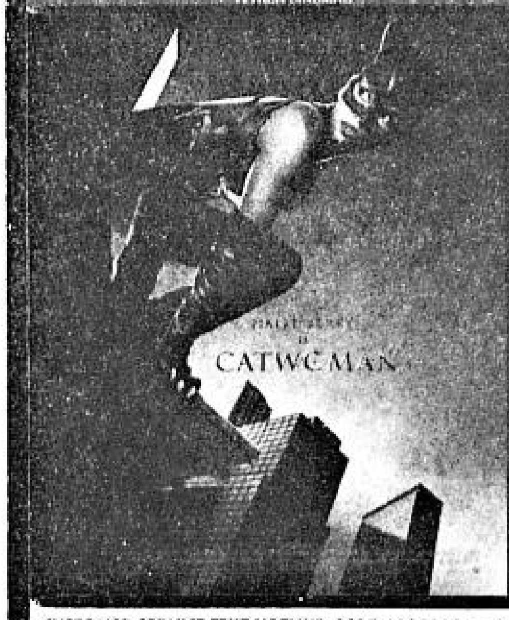

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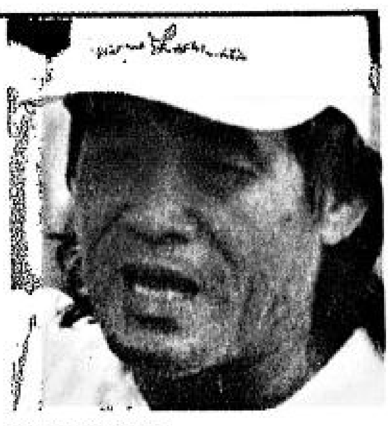
Mikey also wants to play Angelo de la Cruz

ARROYO



DE LA CRUZ

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

MEXICO, Pampanga—Rep. Juan Miguel "Mikey" Arroyo wants to play the role of Angelo de la Cruz in a movie about the 17-day ordeal of the former overseas contract worker in the hands of Iraqi terrorists.

Mikey, the eldest son of President Macapagal-Arroyo, on Thursday sent his chief of staff and a representative of his movie producer to Barangay Buenavista in this town for preliminary talks with De la Cruz on the film project.

The INQUIRER saw the son of movie producer Rose Flaminiano talking with De la Cruz here last Thursday. The young congressman and De la Cruz were scheduled to meet over the weekend either in Manila or in Pampanga, the INQUIRER learned.

"I have not yet committed (my life story) to any movie company," said De la Cruz. But he said that if any movie would be done about his ordeal, he would like it to center on the predicament and welfare of overseas Filipino workers.

De la Cruz clarified that the President had not called him to convince him to grant her son the right to do the true-to-life movie.

Interviewed by phone, Rep. Arroyo said, "Nothing is final yet. I don't want to be presumptuous, but it will be an honor and a privilege to portray a man who became a rallying point of the administration's foreign policy."

He said the policy was anchored on the principle of "Filipino first."

As the President reaped praise for prioritizing the life of a fellow Filipino and a *kabalen* (province mate), she also earned criticisms from the United States, Australia and Iraq.

The congressman said he had so far made 15 movies. If the De la Cruz story is made into a movie, it might give him his "most serious" role, he said.

He said he was in no rush to do the movie, adding that legislative work in Congress, mainly his studies on the proposed tax measures and the two-child policy, was occupying much of his time now.

He said he was opposed to the two-child policy because it infringed on the right of couples to decide how many children they wish to have.

Producer Flaminiano's offer to produce a movie on the contract worker's life is the second that De la Cruz has received. The first came from director Carlo Caparas.

Sen. Manuel "Lito" Lapid, also an actor and former governor of Pampanga, said last week he wanted to play the lead role in the Caparas project.

De la Cruz has also been receiving other offers and assistance, the latest of which is a franchise from Kuryente, a company retailing in electrical equipment and tools. But De la Cruz said he wants to immediately "go back to normal, simple life."

On Thursday, he had his hair cut short and his beard shaved. "I'm an ordinary person given a second lease on life and I want to live it well helping others," he said, speaking in his native Kapampangan.

HIS FATHER'S SON. He's grateful that Gary V's songwriting and singing talents have rubbed off on him.

FATHERLY ADVICE. When it comes to girls, Paolo talks with his dad, Gary V.

Paolo V: Pain is an inspiration

SHOW TIME

By Joyce C. Abaño

CONSIDERING that entertainment is supposed to be in his blood, Paolo Valenciano, eldest son of Gary Valenciano and former Music and Magic vocalist Angelina Pangilinan, took a little time before he finally made the plunge into the business.

His younger brother Gabrielhad been showing off his dancing prowess, which of course he inherited from his dad, at an early age, and their sister Kiana has been singing since she was 7.

But Paolo himself admits, "It wasn't until after I was in (the play) 'The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe' that I realized I enjoyed acting and singing. But I've always preferred to be the behind-the-scenes guy."

Paolo played the lead role of Peter in Trumpet Playshop's musical play of that title over one summer. This led to his being cast in another play, "Honk," as well as to guest appearances in several sitcoms, such as "Tanging Ina" and "Bida si Mister, Bida si Misis."

But the 19-year-old actor and Penshoppe model insists he's aiming for loftier goals. What he really wants to be is a filmmaker.

"I used to major in Literature but I wanted to be a film director, so I went into Mass Media," he says. "I like films. I've always liked films. When I watch movies, I focus more on the visuals.

"I want to start with commercials to get my footing at directing. It's an easier approach. Then I'll venture into film."

A sophomore at the De La Salle University, Paolo says he's learning his craft and has even tried his hand at directing.

"For school, I was asked to make a video to promote La Salle," he relates. "My teacher said, 'You want to be a director, right? This is your chance to do it'.

"They showed me samples of several videos. *Ang gaganda!* Anyway, I had this idea and called my dad. I made my brother dance, and I decided to shoot it in a silhouette while my father sang. My friends thought it was really good when they saw it. I got a grade of 4 for that."

Paolo says he is a fan of Steven Spielberg and Quentin Tarantino but he also watches and appreciates good Filipino films. "I watched 'Crying Ladies,'" he says. "I thought it was really good and I liked it. *Galing.*"

Gary V's son claims it isn't hard to choose between his studies and his show biz career. He

PAOLO/ A26

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Meralco ruling to dampen invest climate

By Abigail L. Ho

EXISTING and potential investors in capital-intensive industries in the country may think twice about putting their money here as a recent court decision junking the unbundled rates of Lopez-led Manila Electric Co. will increase the uncertainty of doing business in the Philippines.

Consumer and Oil Price Watch chair Raul Concepcion said the Court of Appeal's decision was nothing short of a "nightmare" not only for the power sector but also for the business community as a whole.

The decision, he said, undermined the independence and authority of the Energy Regulatory Commission, the agency mandated by RA 9136 or the Electric Power Industry Reform Act (Epira) to approve the rates unbundling petitions of distribution utilities like Meralco.

He said the appellate court was in no position to "annul and set aside" the ERC's May 30, 2003, order unbundling Meralco's rates as it neither had the right nor the technical expertise to do so.

"This is judicial interference, and it will have an effect on the attitude of local and foreign investors at a time when the government is aggressively encouraging investments in capital-intensive industries like power," he said in a briefing yesterday.

The court order likewise called on the ERC to compel Meralco to have the Commission on Audit examine its books.

This, Concepcion said, would set a precedent for the approval of future rate-increase petitions, not only of Meralco but of other power distributors and electric

MERALCO/ B2

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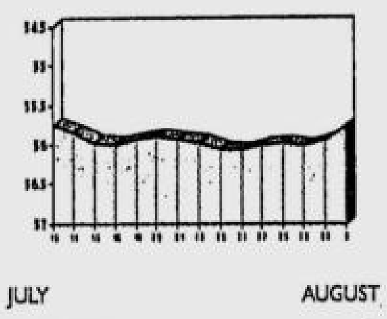

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GOLD: $392.60-393.10
per ounce Hong Kong, Aug. 2, 2004

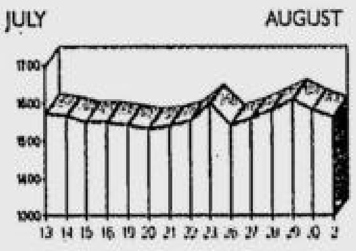
August 2, 2004 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.831669993	1.000000	55.9960
Japan	Yen	0.007478	0.008992	0.5035
United Kingdom	Pound	1.515303	1.822000	102.0247
Hongkong	Dollar	0.10663	0.128212	7.1794
Switzerland	Franc	0.649083	0.780457	43.7025
Canada	Dollar	0.625551	0.752162	42.1181
Singapore	Dollar	0.48412	0.582106	32.5956
Australia	Dollar	0,583505	0.701607	39.2872
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.206139	2.652661	148.5384
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.221779	0.266667	14.9323
Brunei	Dollar	0.482715	0.580417	32.5010
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000091	0.000110	0.0062
Thailand	Baht	0.020137	0.024213	1.3558
UAE	Dirham	0.226434	0.272264	15.2457
Euro	Euro	1	1.202400	67.3296
Argentina	Peso	0.279553	0.336134	18.8222
Brazil	REAL	0.274841	0.330469	18.5049
India	Rupee	0.017943	0.021575	1.2081
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.21889	0.263193	14.7378
Mexico	New Peso	0.072893	0.087646	4.9078
New Zealand	Dollar	0.529187	0.636294	35.6299
Korea	Won	0.000711	0.000855	0.0479
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.024504	0.029464	1.6499

STOCK MARKET

Stocks end down as Meralco slides

STOCKS backpedalled yesterday, dragged lower by further heavy falls in shares of power distributor Manila Electric Co. (Meralco) and weak regional sentiment due to security fears.

The Philippine stock Index slipped 1.28 percent or 20.23 points to end at 1,564.47 points. *Reuters*



(See stock market report on Page B2)

T-bill rates fall; 91-day yield at 7.125%

By Michelle V. Remo

BANKS scrambled for short-term government securities during yesterday's auction, pulling down interest rates by as much as 31.8 basis points and showing less concern about the government's fiscal problems.

The rate for the 91-day treasury bill, used as a benchmark by banks in pricing their loans, declined by 31.8 basis points to 7.125 percent. Rate for the 182-day T-bills stood at 8.186 percent, or 28.6 basis points lower than the previous level, while that of the 364-day debt paper slid by 13.9 basis points to 9.176 percent.

"We did not have much problems today. The market may already be factoring in positive developments like the government's proposed measures to improve its fiscal position," Deputy Treasurer Eduardo Mendiola said in a briefing after the auction.

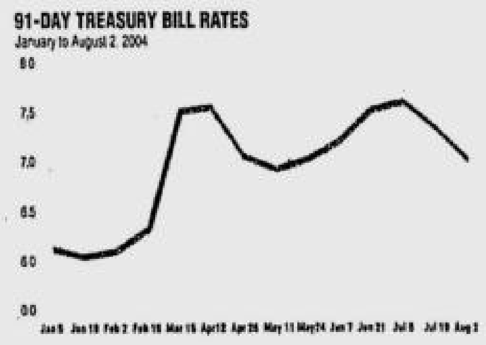
Mendiola was referring to the Arroyo administration's revenue-enhancement measures, which are being pushed in Congress for legislation. Included in the measures are tax reforms such as a shift to gross income taxation and the imposition of a franchise tax on telecommunication companies.

All T-bill tenors were oversubscribed, indicating a healthy liquidity among banks. Tenders for the 91-day bills stood at P9.81 billion compared with the government's offering of only P4.5 billion. Tenders for the 182- and 364-day paper, meanwhile, reached P5.99 billion and P4.07 billion, respectively. The government only offered P3.5 billion for the 182-day T-bills and P3 billion for the 364-day bills.

"There was a big amount of maturity last Aug. 1, and banks need to roll over their funds," Mendiola said. He explained that about P15 billion worth of government securities matured over the weekend, therefore giving banks enough liquidity to re-invest in treasury bills and bonds.

Mendiola also said the further decline in the rates for the short-term government securities could be an indication the market was already headed for a downtrend in interest rates.

The decline in the rates for T-bills yesterday followed the decrease in the rates for government securities that started last month. The lower rates being sought by banks made the Treasury accept huge amounts of bids from the market.



Globe posts 58% jump in first-half profit

By Clarissa S. Batino

GLOBE Telecom Inc. yesterday reported a 58-percent increase in its first-half net income to P6.9 billion from P4.4 billion the previous year following aggressive efforts to tap the lower segment of the market to increase its subscriber base.

During the second quarter, Globe said it added 1.4 million subscribers, bringing its total customers to 10.5 million as of end-June.

The joint venture of Ayala Corp. and Singapore Telecom had bounced back from the first quarter's purging of 1.9 million subscribers, most of whom went to the competitor.

From April to June, Globe registered a net income of P3.8 billion against P3.1 billion from January to March.

Improved profitability allowed the company to declare a cash dividend of P18 a share payable to common shareholders as of Aug. 8. This was the second dividend that Globe would pay out this year as it also declared a similar dividend last March.

"The improvement in our performance that

GLOBE/ B2

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Only have rice for you

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

THE NATIONAL Food Authority, or the NFA, is done with its rice importation for the whole year, all the 850,000 metric tons of it.

The NFA says it has already completed its importation during the first half of the year. Actually, the bulk of the shipment came in prior to the elections last May.

But then again it's no wonder that the NFA administrator, a young lawyer named Arthur Yap, has also been a student of Gloriaetta in the university.

Later after the elections—and all that rice importation—Gloriaetta all of a sudden named Yap as the new agriculture secretary of this cute administration.

Yap was to replace the current hardworking honest agriculture secretary, the multimillionaire Luis Lorenzo Jr., who was even well-liked in the business community.

Nobody could say if Yap's promotion has had anything to do with the importation. This cute administration did give away a lot of rice during the campaign.

***

AND SO from what I gathered, that news over the weekend, which claimed that the NFA would import rice through "negotiated" buying, caught Yap a bit unawares.

In media, when any government outfit talks about its going into a negotiated purchase of anything, they only have eyes for some big fat "commission."

For that was the implication of the news about the NFA's plan for a negotiated purchase of some P1.3 billion worth of rice. You know—how much!

Still, his boys tell me that Yap has not been bothered by the insinuation of a big fat "commission" for the NFA in the news.

After all, under the law, the NFA can skip public bidding, such as when it is faced with an imminent shortage of rice, which can very well lead to a revolution.

Rice is the staple food of 83 million Filipinos, fat and thin alike, even if rice is the only food on the table. What's that—I only have rice for you?

***

ANYWAY, it all started two months ago when the NFA found out that the private sector could not fulfill its share in the programmed rice importation for 2004, an election year.

For this year, the NFA planned to import rice of between 850,000 and 910,000 metric tons, which was the estimated shortfall in the domestic harvest for the entire year.

Importation of some 310,000 metric tons would be done by the private sector, and the rest, by the NFA itself.

Supposedly, the term "private sector" refers to the rice farmers, through their various NGOs and cooperatives. Supposedly!

Actually, the share of the "private sector" often went to big-time rice traders. One of them goes by the name of George...well, he has a Chinese sounding family name.

Another bigtime trader, based on word in Binondo, has an Indian sounding name. Both this guy and George are said to have direct lines to somebody in Malacañang.

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BUT BACK to the NFA importation, I heard that the "private sector" had failed to use up its big allocation. The "private sector" had brought in only 16,000 metric tons.

The main reason, according to NFA insiders, was that the "private sector" found the world price of rice prohibitive.

But time was flying fast, not only because the elections were getting closer, and this cute administration could not even afford an explosive issue such as a rice shortage.

There was also the possibility that if the NFA waited a bit longer, it would have to bite even higher prices, some 10 to 20 percent more.

Usually, during the third quarter of every year, which are the lean months for rice in the spot markets abroad, the prices go up somewhere up there in heaven.

The NFA thus decided that it could no longer wait for the private sector to take its sweet time. Not only that, the NFA had to hurry the purchase by foregoing the bidding.

***

JUST in case it would have to come to that, the NFA ran to the Department of Justice for the authority to waive the bidding.

And that authority was what media played up during the weekend. The NFA wanted to buy rice through a negotiated deal. All at the same time now—HOW MUCH?

It turned out that the NFA already completed its importation for the year, even using public bidding. In other words, even the DOF authority was a bit too late.

Now the only question is, why the DOF had to release the darn thing to media, just when a case has been filed against Yap before the Ombudsman a few days ago.

Upon announcement of his appointment as agriculture secretary, Yap became the talk of the town. You know—so young, so smart... and so forth.

For the position, you see, he had to dislodge a supposed Rotary "crony" of somebody big in Malacañang, plus the brother of somebody bigger in the Senate.

***

WORD goes around that ABS-CBN talkshow host Ricardo "Dong" Puno has not accepted the Cabinet post known as "information czar" under this cute administration.

What I heard from people who have been going in and out of the Palace lately was, actually, it was Secretary Yoyong Afable who was being groomed for the position.

Of course I have to call the good secretary. He told me that he had not gotten any word on the matter.

For your information, the low-key but efficient Yoyong is actually up to here with work in the peace negotiation of this cute administration with MILF.

Moreover, he is not part of any of the five media groups in Malacañang which are all fighting for the attention of Gloriaetta.

Apparently, Gloriaetta wants to get rid of the fractious media set-up at the Palace by putting one person in charge of everything, including government media outfits, being spokesman and overall punching bag.

In fact, Gloriaetta moved the head of one of the media groups to another assignment, getting the title of "presidential adviser for provincial trips."

Can you believe that? I don't if Gloriaetta has an "adviser for make-up color and eye shadow."

DISAPPOINTING COURT ORDER

Investors dump Meralco shares

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

FOREIGN investors, unnerved by fears of fresh terror attacks overseas and frustrated over a court ruling junking a Meralco rate hike petition, have been dumping their holdings in various companies since last Friday.

Oliver Plana, head of sales at Asiasec Equities Inc., said the primary casualties in the market yesterday were Manila Electric Co. and First Philippine Holdings, both controlled by the Lopez family.

Security threats arising from information that the al-Qaida group was planning attacks on various international financial institutions bothered investors and dragged the market.

Also, foreign investors got frustrated over what was deemed as "judicial interference in corporate matters," referring to the court decision on the Meralco case.

Analysts were expecting selling pressure on Lopez-owned companies this week after the Court of Appeals annulled a June 2003 decision by the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC) allowing Meralco to raise electricity rates by 17 centavos per kilowatt hour.

The managing director of a foreign brokerage firm said the court decision had "heavy ripple effects on the investment strategies of foreign investors for the Philippines."

"The issue goes beyond the power sector. It means any rate increase (in any sector) can be questioned. There is that uncertainty. Clients are saying that no matter how profitable a company is, any court can rule this and that and throw everyone (off their guards)," the foreign brokerage executive said on condition of anonymity.

Joseph Roxas, president of local brokerage firm Eagle Equities Inc., said "the market seems to be frustrated over judicial interference on corporate matters."

"My view is that foreign investors are fed-up with how things are done here. You can't get something done because the courts interfere," he said.

In its decision, the Court of Appeals said ERC should have placed Meralco's books and accounts under audit before approving the unbundling of its rates.

With these issues and the terror threats in the US hounding local and regional markets, the 30-company composite index fell 20.23 points or 1.3 percent to 1,564.47.

Value turnover was at P712 million with a total of 1 billion worth of shares traded.

Meralco 'B,' or shares held by both foreign and local investors, plunged 13.8 percent or P3.25 to close at P20.25, from P23.50 earlier. Meralco 'A' shares or those sold only to Filipinos, fell P1.50 or 9.4 percent to P14.50 from P16 a share.

First Philippine Holdings Corp. (FPHC), the Lopez-owned conglomerate involved in power generation and toll road construction dropped 6.1 percent or P1.50 to P23.25 from P24.75.

Benpres Holdings Corp., the flagship company of the Lopez Group with interests in broadcasting and water distribution also dropped two centavos or 3.8 percent to 51 centavos a share.

In the meantime, Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. (PLDT) sank P15 or 1.2 percent to P1,235 from P1,250, dragged by the weakness in its Wall Street traded stocks.

Foreign brokers sold a total of P484.49 million worth of shares against purchases worth P341.65 million. As a result, foreign brokers were net sellers at P143 million.

Security Bank Q2 profit up 54%

SECURITY Bank Corp. earned P289 million in the second quarter of this year, up 54 percent from the first quarter profit figure of P188 million.

The bank's income now stands at P476 million, which is ahead of budget and on track to the attainment of the bank's target of a 10 percent-15 percent increase over the previous year's level.

The income improvement was brought about by the strong performance of its interest differential businesses and more aggressive collection efforts on its portfolio of nonperforming assets (NPAs).

Alberto S. Villarosa, president and CEO of Security Bank, said the first semester income translates to an annualized return-on-equity (ROE) of 9.7 percent, a significant increase from last year's 6.4 percent. The bank's net interest income reflected a quarterly increase of 14 percent as a result of expanded asset volumes and improved margins. It also had higher income from its portfolio of investment securities.

Intensified collection efforts from its nonperforming loans (NPLs) resulted in interest income recoveries, further shrinking Security Bank's NPL ratio to 7.8 percent from the first quarter's 8.6 percent, which is one of the lowest in the industry.

"Income improvement over the first quarter was achieved, despite the continued buildup of provisions by P232 million for the Ropoa, which was made in case deterioration in market values occurs," Villarosa said.

Operating expenses were also kept under control, allowing the bank to post a cost-to-income ratio of 54 percent for the second quarter, lower than the 58 percent in the first quarter.

HGC posts ₱123M in savings

THE HOME Guaranty Corp. (HGC) will generate additional annual savings of some P122.7 million following the completion of a major organizational restructuring.

This was disclosed by HGC president Gonzalo Benjamin Bongolan, saying the restructuring had drastically reduced HGC's manpower costs by an average of about 60 percent while improving organizational efficiency.

HGC supports President Macapagal-Arroyo's major middle-market and socialized housing initiatives by generating funds to guarantee loans and investments by the government and private financial institutions. It had earlier reported the successful generation of close to P4.3 billion from the capital market boosting its cash resources and further encouraging the expansion of lending to families building new homes, and the growth of lower-end housing development projects.

Recent significant improvements in HGC's cash position have also boosted private sector confidence in the Arroyo administration's housing initiatives, resulting in new guarantee enrollments averaging P14.87 billion yearly, up from the P8 billion average in the late 1990s.

Bongolan said Arroyo's directions for the creation of a "more responsive public service organization spurred the design of a flatter and streamlined HGC structure." The design included the right-sizing of HGC following a 70-percent manpower reduction supported by its Early Separation Incentive Program (Esip).

The program, Bongolan pointed out, was carried out on a purely voluntary basis and was based on HGC's new charter and business strategies. The required P169 million in one-time expense for the Esip implementation is offset by the corresponding savings, he added.

The restructuring also involved the abolition of positions not related to HGC's main mandate, outsourcing certain requirements, and automation of vital processes.

Meralco ruling to dampen investment climate

From page B1

cooperatives as well.

This could mean that the COA would also have to audit the books of every single power distributor in the country to make sure that the rates they were charging were appropriate and that the rate increases they were asking for were reasonable, he said.

"But the COA has no technical expertise to do this. The ERC is the one with the technical expertise. If they're going to do this audit, why not just abolish the ERC and let the Court of Appeals make the decisions (that the ERC is mandated to make)?" he said.

He added that since Meralco was not a government agency, the COA should have nothing to do with its books.

But if the court order would stand and Meralco's books would really have to go through COA's scrutiny, he said the government auditor should complete its audit in no more than 90 days.

Overall, the air of "unpredictability" that the court order would surely result in would only serve to drive investors away, he said, as nobody would want to do business under an uncertain environment.

"This is the worst. There's no predictability here," he said.

Concepcion said the ERC should take a firm stance on this issue and file a motion for intervention in the case.

ERC Chair Rodolfo Albano had earlier said that the regulatory body would file a motion with the appellate court, particularly as this decision could affect all the rate-unbundling petitions that had already been approved.

The ERC has almost finished processing and approving all rate-unbundling petitions that distribution utilities and electric cooperatives have filed over the past months.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of August 2, 2004)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	17.5	17.5	17.25	17.5	111,700
Bank of the Phil. Islands	41.5	41.5	41	41.5	146,300
China Banking Corp.	540	540	540	540	7,060
Citystate Savings Bank	16.25	16.25	16.25	16.25	1,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	40.5	41	40.5	40.5	48,900
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	100,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	26	27	26	26	156,000
Philippine National Bank	23.5	23.5	23.5	23.5	500
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	12	12	12	12	10,000
Security Bank Corp.	21.25	21.25	21.25	21.25	500
Union Bank of the Phil.	24.5	24.5	24.5	24.5	20,300
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Bankard Inc.	0.94	0.94	0.94	0.94	10,000
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	20	20	20	20	1,600
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.67	0.67	0.65	0.66	1,060,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	860	865	850	860	269,760
ISM Communications Corp.	0.036	0.037	0.036	0.037	2,200,000
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	130,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	2.24	2.24	2.14	2.2	12,504,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1270	1270	1225	1235	112,550
Ivantage Corp.	0.64	0.65	0.56	0.58	1,220,000
Philweb Corp.	0.011	0.012	0.011	0.012	27,400,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	15.75	16	14	14.5	326,400
Manila Electric Co. B	23.5	23.5	20	20.25	7,179,600
Petron Corp.	2.75	2.8	2.75	2.8	760,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	1.04	1.06	1.04	1.06	305,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.28	1.28	1.28	1.28	14,000
Aboitiz Trans. Sys. Corp.	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	11,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	3.3	3.3	3.25	3.25	309,000
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	50,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.36	0.36	0.35	0.35	600,000
Union Cement Corp.	1.72	1.74	1.7	1.74	544,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.95	3	2.95	3	33,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	30.5	30.5	30.5	30.5	11,500
Jollibee Foods Corp.	24.25	24.25	24.25	24.25	164,400
RFM Corp.	0.8	1.02	0.8	0.91	320,000
San Miguel Corp. A	57.5	57.5	57	57.5	27,700
San Miguel Corp. B	71	71	71	71	53,100
Vitarich Corp.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	250,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.0055	0.0055	0.005	0.005	88,000,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg B	0.0055	0.0055	0.005	0.005	15,000,000
Ayala Corp.	5.6	5.6	5.5	5.5	380,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	3.05	3.05	3.05	3.05	21,000
Ajo Net Holdings Inc.	0.023	0.023	0.023	0.023	1,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	20,000
Baguio Gold Holdings Corp.	1.1	1.5	1.1	1.5	868,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs	0.98	1.04	0.98	1.04	240,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	23.75	23.75	23.75	23.75	3,900
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.53	0.53	0.5	0.51	9,750,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.125	0.15	0.125	0.135	1,020,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.17	0.175	0.17	0.175	720,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06	1,000,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.84	0.89	0.82	0.85	16,280,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	0.98	0.98	0.96	0.97	1,070,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	24.5	24.75	23.25	23.25	1,599,900
Global Equities Inc.	0.07	0.07	0.0675	0.0675	7,700,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.76	1.76	1.74	1.74	65,000
Macroasia Corp.	1.38	1.64	1.36	1.6	1,085,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. B	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012	4,100,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.12	1.12	1.12	1.12	1,221,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	1,550,000
Prime Media Holdings Inc.	1.06	1.06	1.04	1.04	70,000
Tanduay Holdings Inc.	3	3	2.9	2.9	45,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	3,410,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.2	0.205	0.195	0.205	240,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.42	1.42	1.38	1.38	89,000
Steniel Manufacturing	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	100,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.57	0.57	0.54	0.55	2,550,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.3	0.31	0.3	0.3	120,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	40,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	20	20	20	20	436,600
PLDT (10% Pref) Series J	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	300
PLDT (10% Pref) Series K	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,400
PLDT (10% Pref) Series O	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,200
PLDT (10% Pref) Series S	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	700
PLDT (10% Pref.) Series U	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	200
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,600
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	2,400
PLDT (10% Pref) Series X	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	2,100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Y	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,300
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.6	5.6	5.5	5.5	2,123,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.4	0.4	0.38	0.38	370,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	1,300,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	3,630,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	0.99	1	0.99	1	810,000
Gotesco Land Inc.	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	100,000
Highlands Prime Inc.	2.1	2.2	2.1	2.2	22,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.165	0.165	0.165	0.165	400,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.39	0.39	0.38	0.38	200,000
SM Development Corp.	1.06	1.06	1.06	1.06	9,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.9	5.9	5.8	5.8	3,831,000
MINING					
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	3.15	3.25	3.1	3.1	327,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.2	0.2	0.195	0.195	910,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	50,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.014	0.015	0.014	0.014	263,900,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.015	0.016	0.015	0.016	142,400,000
Omico Corp.	0.0036	0.0036	0.0036	0.0036	33,000,000
OIL					
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.004	0.004	0.0038	0.0038	273,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0042	0.0042	0.0038	0.0038	67,000,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.031	0.031	0.031	0.031	1,000,000

DISCLOSURES

MRC Allied Industries Inc. adjourned its stockholders' meeting last July 30 due to lack of quorum.

***

ELECTED directors of **United Paragon Mining Corp.** were Alfredo Ramos, Eduardo Castillo, Carlos Dominguez, Maximo Licauco III, Ricardo Miguel Ramos, Manuel Recto and Augusto Sunico.

***

ATR Kim Eng Financial Corp.'s over 11.5 million shares were sold by its wholly-owned subsidiary, ATR-Kim Eng Capital Partners Inc., to a foreign investor for over P27.7 million.

***

ACESITE (Philippines) Hotel Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Aug. 18, 4 p.m. at the Nautilus Function Room of Manila Pavilion Hotel. Stockholders of record as of July 26 are entitled to vote at the meeting.

***

PCI Leasing & Finance Inc. bought 1,500 of its shares at P1.32 each.

***

ZIPPORAH Realty Holdings Inc. will sell, transfer and convey all its fully paid and non-assessable shares of stock in its wholly owned subsidiary Ebedev Inc.

***

BANCO de Oro Universal Bank announced the resignation of Jose Sio as director and his reappointment as observer to the board. Teodoro Montecillo was elected independent director of the bank and will assume office after Aug. 5. Andrew Alcid was appointed executive vice president as well as EVP and chief operating officer of BDO's wholly owned subsidiary BDO Private Bank Inc. Edmundo Soriano was appointed senior vice president and head of corporate banking of BDO.***Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research***

Globe posts . . .

From page B1

began in March this year gained further momentum in the second quarter. We are well underway in achieving our key imperatives including an accelerated rollout. In just six months, our expansion already matches 90 percent of what was achieved in all of 2003," said Gerardo Ablaza Jr., president of Globe.

Aside from an increased subscriber take-up, the company also credited its improving operating efficiency for the better performance in the first semester.

Operating revenue in the first half reached P26.2 billion, or up 15 percent against the previous year while operating costs went up by only 7 percent at P10.3 billion.

Designated cook cashes in on bar chow

By Alexa H. Bacay

SUCCESS STORY

GERRY Apolinario started out as the designated cook of the *barkada* (gang). He would grill *pulutan* (bar chow) for his friends while they drank beer and everybody would be happy.

In gathering recipes, Gerry eventually developed his own concoctions. Soon, he thought of putting up a restaurant. At first, he wanted a place where his *barkada* could just hang out after work.

"Nothing big, you know . . . we never expected that we would expand," Gerry said. "(All we wanted was) just one branch where we could hang out."

In 1997, the first Gerry's Grill opened on Tomas Morato in Quezon City. It was just a bar and "ihaw-ihaw" type of place where people could hang out after work. But soon, Gerry began to notice that whole families were coming in. On Sundays, even the elderly would frequent the place.

Family restaurant

Gerry realized that he needed to switch tack, and began to turn his place into a family restaurant and bar.

"It's good . . . we actually captured the market that we were not expecting," said Gerry. *"Kala namin mga* after-office hours thing *lang yan* (we thought it would only be an after-office hours kind of thing). Now people come in for lunch and dinner, which is better."

Customers frequently have to line up to get a seat at Gerry's Grill, which now counts 13 branches. The biggest branch in terms of building size is the one in Libis, followed by the Glorietta branch. In terms of land area, the biggest is in Subic.

Doing well

Gerry is thankful that all the branches are doing very well.

This year, Gerry decided to expand his business by franchising—but only to people he has known for a long time.

Gerry's Grill may follow the business pattern of franchising, but the owner has decided to remain cautious, extending the franchise only to his closest friends.

He said that he found it difficult to expand the business because, with every Gerry's Grill that opened, he had to personally oversee the system.

"But after seven years, *medyo okay na yung* system *namin* (our system has improved)," he said. "We are now in a better position to share our products with others and expand."

Gerry believes in healthy competition. Through the years, other grills have been put up, opening the market to a wide variety of cocktail victuals.

But Gerry's Grill is holding its own.

THINGS are looking up at Gerry's Grill, now serving more than just cocktail victuals.

Healthy competition

"I consider all other restaurants competitors," he said. "When a customer goes (to a Japanese restaurant) instead of at Gerry's Grill, then you become a competitor. But that's good. That's healthy."

THE SUBIC branch is the biggest in terms of land area.

Gerry explained that when your restaurant is situated alongside others, you would have a package. Your restaurant would complete a strip, becoming a destination where people can go.

Asked why people keep coming back to his place, Gerry modestly replied: "Good food, of course . . . reasonable *yung* price, and of course the place."

The businessman has made sure that the same casual ambience people have warmed up to is maintained in all the branches.

He also makes sure that the food is always fresh.

DESIGNATED cook turned businessman, Gerry Apolinario

When this writer requested for baked *tahong* (mussels), the delicacy was not available. Gerry explained that they were careful about the food they serve and they would even coordinate with the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources daily over which types of food to avoid.

Quality control

That day, he said, there was a threat of Red Tide so baked mussels was taken out of the menu for the time being.

Here enters the biggest challenge for the young businessman: quality control.

"Yun yung problem *pag nag*-expand (that's the problem when a business expands)," Gerry explained. "The quality is compromised. In franchising, we control that by managing the outlet."

After seven years, customers have kept coming back to Gerry's, putting the grill on the country's culinary map.

Gerry now hopes to have what every restaurateur dreams of.

"We're trying to be a household name here and I think we're getting there."

Gerry's Grill on Aug. 3 will open a new branch at the 2nd floor Ayala Entertainment, Ayala Cebu. On Aug. 10, another branch will open at the Blue Wave along Edsa Extension corner Macapagal Avenue.

RP acquires concessions in WTO talks

By Christine A. Gaylican

THE PHILIPPINES and other developing countries have obtained favorable concessions from developed nations in the recently concluded meeting of the World Trade Organization.

The Department of Agriculture said that in the conclusion of the July talks, the WTO has adopted the "special products" concept which would allow a developing country to regulate the flow of imported products and market access.

The WTO General Council announced that "special differential treatment for developing countries will be an integral part of all elements of the negotiations, including the tariff reduction formula, the number and treatment of sensitive products, expansion of tariff rate quotas and implementation period," according to Segfredo Serrano, DA undersecretary and a member of the trade delegation.

The council noted that special care must be taken to protect the rural development, food security and livelihood needs of the developing country, Serrano said.

Agricultural products that would fall under the SP category would not have to be subjected to deeper tariff cuts next year. This would mean relief for local farmers producing rice, corn, sugar, livestock and poultry, whose duties range from 100 to 50 percent. The concession would also allow the government to keep duties on these products' substitutes, such as barley, wheat and rye.

Serrano said it was necessary for developing countries to reduce at their own pace the duties on sensitive agricultural products because of their importance to food and livelihood security and rural development.

Aside from maintaining tariffs, the Philippines would also push for the implementation of enhanced special safeguard mechanisms that would allow developing countries to charge higher duties on products threatened by cheap imports, Lorenzo said.

Tips on how to be a better investor (Part 2)

MR. BEARBULL

Ron Nathan

3) Do not average down

Under normal circumstances, I am against the death penalty, but not for those who break this commandment. They should be barbecued slowly over a fire while concentrated hydrochloric acid is dropped upon them. All the people I know who went bankrupt averaged down.

In 1996, the market climbed steadily, accelerating in the final months. A client entrusted me with P4 million and, as the market was so strong, he opened a margin account for another P4 million. After a year of hectic trading, his portfolio was worth P22 million in cash. At that point, I told him that I was returning to London for a week to see my mother because it was her 90th birthday, and not to buy anything while I was away.

Unfortunately, he went to a company meeting where a director told him (and 100 other people) to buy the shares at P5.40 as there was going to be a secondary offering between P10 and P12 the following month. He invested all his capital in the purchase of 4 million shares. When I returned, he told me what he had done and I lost my temper. "I can't sell," he said "because the shares are now only P5, and I would lose P1.6 million plus expenses." "But I made for you P18 million," I said. "Why can't you take a loss?" Well, he refused and the shares kept on falling, P4, P3, P2, P1, 50 centavos. Eventually, we parted company and as far as I know, he never sold them. The shares fell to 3 centavos and have now been de-listed, after filing for bankruptcy.

Another client bought 20 million shares at 54 centavos on the advice of his neighbor who was a director of the company. I was acutely unhappy because they had risen from their par value of 1 centavo. Not only would he not sell at 50 centavos as I suggested, but also he averaged down at 40 cents, 30 cents, 20 cents and 10 cents. He had to sell his house and his business to raise the money. Finally, the shares stabilized at 1 centavo, the price they are still at.

If you follow the second commandment, such disasters cannot happen to you, so you will never be faced with the decision of whether to average down.

4) Do not overtrade

If you are trading everyday, the only person making money is your broker. The expense involved is too high. You have to pay two commissions, usually 0.5 percent plus VAT, and a 0.5 percent sales tax. In addition, there is the difference between the bid and offer price, usually about 2 percent. So you have to make 4 percent just to break even. This is fine, so long as you BUY just as the stock is turning up, but if you deal constantly, the expense will ultimately cripple you.

That small percentage is enough to make all the incredibly costly casinos in Las Vegas profitable. They can afford to give free rooms, free food and drinks, and free shows to high rollers because they know that a percentage advantage of 3.6 percent is enough to guarantee the house a sure profit over the long run. Trade only when the technical indicators tell you to. For the remainder of the time, do nothing. Patience is a virtue.

5) Do not trade on tips

In England, we say, "Where there's a tip, there's a tap."

I am sure you all remember BW, now Fairmont. The shares were run up deliberately by a consortium that, by tips and cross trading, created enormous volume and sent the shares from 40 centavos (under a different name) to P108. Almost everyone got sucked in, mostly at the higher levels, and those speculators who did not use stop losses saw their shares go all the way down to 40 centavos and below. One old lady wrote to me that her broker had recommended it at P104. Would she ever see her money back? I replied, somewhat unkindly, "Only if you believe in reincarnation." These days, few people follow tips and public participation is minimal, as can be seen from the low net turnover.

6) Do not chase prices

When I recently recommended PLTL for long-term, subscribers bought around P1.88 and readers, a week later, at P2.04. But those who did not read the article until the evening piled in next day, paying up to P2.55. This was sheer lunacy and I told subscribers to SELL and wait for a correction. The SEC has now stated that SMART does not have to make a tender offer after all, as they bought the shares at 20.59 centavos, so it would have been an appalling waste of time and money. I repeat that there is nothing to go for in the short-term, but if you can take a 1-year view, the shares should go up to at least P3.

When shares take off, they usually fall back. Look at MAC, up and down like a yo-yo. OPM jumped from .0032 to .0060 and then dropped back to .0032. At that point, I recommended them in my newsletter as a SPECULATIVE buy and in four days, they were up 30 percent. At least, there is some substance because they are part of a group drilling for oil. No, I do not hold any shares.

7) Be wary of inactive stocks

The documentary stamp, which made trading in shares well below their par value prohibitive, has been removed. As a result, trading has increased tenfold and, numerically, third-liners comfortably exceed leaders. But in value, out of 122 stocks that traded last Friday, only 10 traded P10 million and accounted for over 90 percent of turnover.

I have a computer program that tells me when a stock increases in price by 5 percent, and its volume is 50 percent above its 50-day moving average. This alerts me to inactive stocks that suddenly become more active. Often, the spread between bid and offer is too great or the number of shares available is too small to be of any interest. But occasionally, it throws up something interesting. MAB was a case in point and it has doubled over the past 2 weeks on large volume.

8) Buy low priced stocks

By this, I don't mean stocks quoted at a fraction of a centavo. I mean decent stocks standing around, or above, their par value of P1. Obviously, it is easier to double your money on a low-priced stock than on a high-priced bank or insurance company. Even TEL, my most successful recommendation (up over P1000), is not likely to double from this level. I expect it to reach P1500 next year, but in percentage terms, this is only 15 percent. There are not many stocks worth looking at, but there are one or two.

The last commandment is **9) LEARN TECHNICAL ANALYSIS** and I will tell you where to get information. (To be concluded)

***

A Filipino booked for China was told that he needed a visa.

"That's ridiculous," he said. "I have been there four times and they have always accepted my American Express card."

The Beatles have written a song about MERALCO. It is called, "Let it B."

(mrbearbull@hotmail.com)

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Will have its auction sale on August 09, 2004. All unredeemed pledges during the month of March 01-31, 2004. Diajade Br.II-11:30 am Sons of J. Lanuza-Auctioneer.
(PDI-August 03, 2004)

Nuestra-Damus Pawnshop - Makati City Auction Sale on August 06, 2004 all unredeemed pledges during the month of March 01-31, 2004 . Nuestra Br. II 9:30am; Nuestra Br. I 10:30am; Nuestra Br. IX - 3:00pm. Sons of J. Lanuza - Auctioneer.
(PDI-August 03, 2004)

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is given that the estate of the late ELMER A. ASUNCION has been extrajudicially settled among his parents under Doc. #44 Page #10 Book #32 Series of 2004 of Notary Public Atty. Sinag O. Villareal of Antipolo City
(PDI-Aug. 3, 10 & 17, 2004)

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A. **PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION AND ADMINISTRATIVE ADJUDICATION BUREAU A (PIAB-A)**; Item No. OMBA-GIPO3-13-2004; OMBA-GIPO3-14-2004
B. **PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION AND ADMINISTRATIVE ADJUDICATION BUREAU B (PIAB-B)**; Item No. OMBA-GIPO3-15-2004; OMBA-GIPO3-16-2004
C. **PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION AND ADMINISTRATIVE ADJUDICATION BUREAU C (PIAB-C)**; Item No. OMBA-GIPO3-17-2004; OMBA-GIPO3-18-2004; OMBA-GIPO3-19-2004
D. **PUBLIC ASSISTANCE BUREAU (PAB)**; Item No. OMBA-GIPO3-20-2004
E. **FIELD INVESTIGATION OFFICE (FIO)**; Item No. OMBA-GIPO3-21-2004
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COMMISSION ON APPOINTMENTS
Pasay City

ANNOUNCEMENT OF VACANCIES

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One (1) Supervising Legislative Staff Officer II (Supervising Information Officer) Item No. 24 SG 24-1 Q.S.: Bachelor's degree relevant to the job, Four (4) years relevant experience, Twenty-four (24) hours of relevant trainings, proficient in oral and written communications, computer literate and Career Service Professional eligible.

One (1) Supervising Legislative Staff Officer II (Committee Secretary) Item No. 43-3 SG 24-1 Q.S.: Bachelor's degree in Mass Communication, Journalism, English or Education. Four years relevant experience, 24 hours relevant training. Proficient in writing correspondence, minutes of meeting, resolutions, reports etc., has systematic and procedural skills for multi-tasked work atmosphere, is a strong team player, has great attention to details, has behavioral flexibility, willing to work under pressure to meet tight deadlines and demonstrates initiative, is conscientious and provides follow through on all areas of responsibilities, training in technical writing, editing, proofreading and Career Service Professional eligible.

One (1) Legislative Staff Officer VI (Field Investigator) Item No. 38-6 SG 22-1 Q.S.: Bachelor's degree relevant to the job, a Certified Public Accountant. Four (4) years of relevant experience, Twenty-four (24) hours of relevant trainings, preferably female and computer literate.

Send Comprehensive Resumé with 2x2 colored picture to: Commission on Appointments, 6F PNB Financial Center, Pres. Diosdado Macapagal Blvd., Pasay City.

(Sgd.) **JOEY C. FLAMINIANO**
Deputy Secretary for Administration

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National Power Corporation

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

NPC-MMSD 2004-014

The Bids and Awards Committee (BAC)-MMSD of NPC invites interested bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following requirements.

Schedule	Date/Time & Place of Bidding	Item Description	PR No/Inquiry No.	ABC
I	August 31, 2004 10:00 A.M. Peñafrancia Room	Portable Single-Phase Reference Standard for WMTSD	PB040720-MMKR1242 (PB2)	1,300,000.00
II		Mechanical Parts for PB 109 "Dale Perkins" Diesel Engine	PB040831-MMAM1457	2,310,086.26
III		Mechanical Parts for Puerto Princesa DPP "Pielstick"	PB040831-MMAM1458	4,935,690.00
IV	August 31, 2004 2:00 P.M. Peñafrancia Room	Mechanical Parts for Tablas DPP "MAN"	PB040831-MMAM1459	2,200,000.00
V		Mechanical Parts for Casiguran DPP "MAN"	PB040720-MMSB1240 (PB2)	1,853,197.00
VI		Mechanical Parts for Marinawa DPP "CKD"	PB040831-MMAD1460	11,358,591.90
VII	September 1, 2004 10:00 A.M. Pahiyas Room	Mechanical Parts for Marinawa DPP "GM"	PB040901-MMAD1461	8,276,900.00
VIII		Mechanical Parts for Bantayan DPP "Man"	PB040901-MMJP1462	2,000,000.00

NOTE : A pre-bidding Conference will be held for the following bidding schedules:

Schedule	Date	Time	Place
All Schedules	Aug. 17, 2004	2:00 P.M.	Peñafrancia Function Room

Complete sets of Application form for Eligibility and Bid Documents may be obtained from the Materials Management Services Division, Materials Management Dept., of NPC, Diliman, Quezon City with Tel. No. 924-53-57 / 924-54-77 upon payment of non-refundable fee of PHP500.00 per schedule starting on August 4, 2004, from 8:30 to 11:30 A.M. only. No bid documents will be issued 3 days before the date of bidding.

Bids will be received at the assigned Bidding Room, MMSD, MMD, NPC, Diliman, Quezon City on the date and time specified above after which Eligibility Requirements and Bid Proposals will be opened in the presence of attending bidders. Certificate of Registration issued by PSD/MMSD will be honored provided that the Certification is still valid.

Prospective Bidders shall signify conformance to bidding terms and conditions as required and shall ensure the same through proper submission/execution in accordance with the IRR of Republic Act No. 9184.

The Bidder shall furnish as part of his/her bid, a bid security in the amount equivalent to a percentage of the approved budget for the contract to be bid in the form of Cash, Manager's/Cashier's Check, Irrevocable Letter of Credit – One Percent (1%), Bank Guarantee – One and a half percent (1.5%), Surety Bond – Two and a half percent (2.5%, penal and callable on demand issued by a Surety or Insurance Company accredited by the office of the Insurance Commission.

NPC reserves the right to reject any or all bids at any time prior to award of contract, waive any defects therein, and accept the offer most advantageous to the Corporation, without thereby incurring any of the following: a) liability whatsoever to offset expenses or losses the bidder may incur in the preparation of the bids and b) obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the grounds for the basis of the BAC's action.

(Sgd.) **LORENZO S. MARCELO**
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee
MMSD-NPC

(PDI – August 3 & 10, 2004)

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SOLEDAD DE GUZMAN BANAAG

Died on July 31, 2004 at age 88.

Her loving children **Cornelio Jr.**, **Estrella**, **Eduardo**, **Araceli**, **Cesar**, **Vicente**, **Reynaldo**, **Evelyn**, **Aurora**, **Teresita**, **Manuel**; children-in-law, grandchildren, and other relatives grieve her passing and pray for her eternal rest.

Her body lies in state at the Loyola Memorial Chapels, Guadalupe, Makati.

Interment will be on August 5, 2004 after the Mass at 8:00 a.m. in the Chapel.

CLARO TUASON CONTI

Peacefully joined our Lord
on 02 August 2004 at the age of 79.

His loving wife **TESSIE** (†); children **CORY** & **CARDING PANGANIBAN**, **CESAR** (†), **BABY** & **GIL HERBOSA**, and **CHE-CHE** & **BOY SIATON**; grandchildren and other relatives request for prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Loyola Memorial Chapels, Guadalupe Viejo, Makati.

Interment will be on Thursday, 05 August 2004.

WE LOVE YOU MIGUEL!
Your memories we will cherish forever...
For God has you in his keeping and we have in our hearts...
In Loving Memory
on the 10th Anniversary of

JOSE-MIGUEL AVANCEÑA TINIO

July 23, 1979 – August 4, 1994

Holy masses offered on Wednesday, August 4, 2004 at the following churches:
Sacred Heart of Jesus Chaplaincy (Hillsborough, Alabang) .... 6:00 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.
Della Strada Church (Katipunan Ave., Quezon City) .... 6:00 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.

His parents: **Nardy** and **Anna Tinio**; his brother: **Jibby** and wife **Charisse**; sisters: **Camille** and **Andrea**; relatives and friends, request the pious readers to remember **MIGUEL** in their prayers.

For the needs of your departed Loved Ones, the following establishments can help you.

ARLINGTON MEMORIAL CHAPEL
12 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City; Tels. 715-1025; 715-1031; 715-1027

ARLINGTON EAST THE GARDEN CHAPELS
C. Raymundo St. cor. Mercedes Ave., San Miguel Ave., Pasig City
Tels. 747-8599; 747-8609 • Telefax 641-1760

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243 A.B. Fernandez Ave., Dagupan City, Pangasinan; Tels. (0785) 522-3451; 522-2128; (0917) 434-9976

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1305 G. Araneta Ave., Quezon City; Tel. 732-0309; 732-1095

CEBU ROLLING HILLS MEMORIAL CHAPELS INC.
Cebu Branch: A.S. Fortuna Street, Banilad, Mandaue City, Cebu; Tels. 346-2543; 346-2601

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Nivel Hills, Lahug, Cebu City; Tels. 231-0721; 231-3192

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#42 Upper Kalaklan, Olongapo City
Tels. (047) 222-3605; (047) 811-1086; (047) 222-4512; (047) 224-2014

DON BOSCO CHAPELS
Pasay Road, Makati City, Tel. 894-5932 to 34

DULCE MEMORIAL SERVICES
Jose Abad Santos Ave. cor. Dinalupihan St., Manuguit, Manila
Tels. 712-5102; 741-5125; 741-5133; Fax No. 711-3064

DYNASTY MEMORIAL CHAPELS
965 Del Monte Ave., Frisco, Quezon City; Tels. 416-3231; 4162373

ERIC SANTIAGO MEMORIAL CHAPELS
26 Bayanbayan Ave., Concepcion I, Marikina City; Tels. 942-6044, 475-1177

FLORESCO FUNERAL HOME
219 Gen. Luna St., Concepcion, Malabon, Metro Manila; Tels. 2812963; 2813034; 2810522

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9 V. Gomez & 13 V. Gomez St., San Roque, Marikina City; Tels. 646-1725 or 646-1730
Branch: Guitnang Bayan, San Mateo, Rizal; Tels. 649-5949, 942-4460

FUNERARIA PANGILINAN
Santo Entierro cor. P. Burgos St., Lourdes Sur, Angeles City
Tels. (045) 888-2959; (045) 322-5247

FUNERARIA ANGEL QUIOGUE
No. 67 Pasig Boulevard Extension, Pasig City; Tels. 641-7909; 641-1735
M. Almeda St., Pateros, Metro Manila; Tels. 642-3010, 633-3602

FUNERARIA FILIPINAS
187 Real St., Zapote Alabang, Las Piñas; Tels. 873-0507, 873-0024

FUNERARIA FILIPINAS
865 J.P. Rizal St., Poblacion, Makati City; Tels. 890-3556, 899-8191

FUNERARIA TUASON
Poblacion, San Miguel, Bulacan 3011; Tels. (044) 764-0281; 678-0266; (0917) 895-0603

FUNERARIA SAMSON
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Tels. (DL) 845-2341 to 42, (TL) 845-2334 to 38 loc. 110/112

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SANTUARIO DE SAN JOSE PARISH
East Greenhills, Mandaluyong City; Telefax 724-4139, 725-2044

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Cel. No. (0917) 5016963

Concepcion B. Licaros

November 3, 1912 - August 1, 2004
of Meycauayan, Bulacan

Devoted wife of the late **Gov. Gregorio S. Licaros, Sr.** (†)

Beloved mother of **Greg, Jr.** (†) and **Abe & Nini.**

Loving grandmother of

Greggy III, **Ramy** (†), **Rinna**, **Donna**, **Ariane**, **Roby** and **Marc.**

Angelo, **Andrew**, **Junie** and **Ria.**

Peacefully joined her Creator on August 1, 2004 at the age of 91.

Her remains lie in state at the Capilla del Señor Chapel, Santuario de San Antonio Parish, Forbes Park, Makati City.

There will be a 10:00 a.m. Mass on Thursday, August 5, 2004 at the Capilla del Señor Chapel, Santuario de San Antonio Parish, Forbes Park, Makati City.

Cremation will follow at 2:00 p.m. at Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque City.

MARIO "MAI" G. BARANDA

Founder & President
PROACTIVE CENTER FOR TRAINING

March 16, 1956 – August 1, 2004

*Our beloved "**bunso**" peacefully joined his Creator and our parents **Carlos "Charlie" Baranda** and **Lumen Sarroza Gentilezo Baranda** and brother **Alan "Butch"** into eternal life last Sunday, August 1.*

We, **Mai**'s sisters and brothers **Lynn** and **Lemmy Erba**, **Pamela Floresca**, **Manon** and **Andy Dizon**, **Carlos** and **Chit** (deceased), **Julio** and **Maria Fe**, **Alan** (deceased) and **Violy**; **Tony** and **Verna**, **Roberto "Bong"**, nieces, nephews and other relatives request the pious reader to join us in praying for His peaceful and blissful journey under the Lord Almighty's loving care.

He lies in state at the Faith Chapel, Don Bosco Chapels, San Lorenzo Village, Pasay Road, Makati City.

Interment will be on Thursday, August 5 after a 9 a.m. Mass at the Manila Memorial Park, Sucat Road, Parañaque City.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

Always caring...
INQUIRER OBITUARIES

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
❶ Copy of Death Certificate
❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

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DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT
MESSAGE OF THANKS
DEATH ANNIVERSARY
REQUIEMS
FREE OBIT DESIGN

We request the pious to pray for eternal repose of

CESAR FLANCIA ZABALLERO

Former Mayor of Lucena City

He died in the Grace of our Lord on August 2, 2004.

His mortal remains lie in state
at the family residence at the corner of Allarey
and Zamora Sts., Lucena City.

Interment will be at 2:00 o'clock in the afternoon of Thursday, 5th of August 2004.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Rehabilitation and Action Center (RAC) of Lucena City.

I am the way, the truth and the life.
No one comes to the Father
except through Me.
John 14:6

Republic of the Philippines
CITY OF BAIS
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The City Government of Bais invites interested suppliers/bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the Installation of Geographical Information System (GIS) – Based Revenue Generation System with the following particulars:

- I. GIS
  - A. READILY AVAILABLE DIGITAL GEOGRAPHIC DATA
  - B. READILY AVAILABLE GIS APPLICATION FOR PLANNING USE
- II. REVENUE GENERATIONS SYSTEMS
  - A. SOFTWARE
    - 1. Software Applications
      - a. Real Property Tax System
      - b. Business Permit & Licensing System
      - c. Engineering Permits System
      - d. Tricycle Registration System
  - B. TRAINING, TECHNICAL SERVICES AND SUPPORT
  - C. DATABASE CONSTRUCTION
- III. HARDWARE AND LOCAL AREA NETWORK (LAN)
  - A. Installation, configuration and commissioning for the following offices
    - – City Mayor's Office
    - – City Assessor's Office
    - – City Engineer's Office
    - – City Planning & Development Office
    - – City Treasurer's Office
  - B. Hardware Maintenance
    - – Training, technical support and maintenance.
- IV. SOFTWARE LICENSES
- V. TIME FRAME
  - – System must be completely installed and operational within three (3) months after signing of Contract Agreement.
- VI. WARRANTY
  - – One (1) year warranty on hardware and software.

Fifteen Million Pesos (Php15,000,000.00) is being earmarked for this project.

The approved budget of the contract for this year is P7,500,000.00 to be taken from the General Fund. And the balance of P7,500,000.00 will be made available next year to be taken from 20% Development Fund.

TERMS OF PAYMENT:

To be paid in two (2) equal installments. First installment in the amount of SEVEN MILLION FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND (Php7,500,000.00) PESOS to be paid this year, full payment will be on the 2nd quarter of CY 2005 in the amount of P7,500,000.00.

The following documents are required for submission:

- A. ELIGIBILITY DOCUMENTS:
  1. DTI or SEC Certificate of Registration
  2. Valid and current Mayor's Business Permit
  3. VAT/Non-VAT Certificate of Registration
  4. Sworn Statement that bidder is not blacklisted or barred from bidding by the Government or any of its agencies.
  5. Sworn statement of any on going and completed government and private contracts or purchase orders within the relevant period, including contracts awarded but not yet started, and track record of projects completed which are similar in nature and complexity to the contract to be bid.
  6. Audited Financial statements, stamped "received" by the BIR or its duly authorized representatives, for the immediately preceding calendar year, showing, among others, the bidder's total and current assets and liabilities.
  7. Copy of the Net Financial Contracting Capacity (NFCC) or a commitment from a licensed bank to extend to it a credit line if awarded the contract to be bid, or a cash deposit certificate, in an amount not lower than that set by this City in the bidding documents, which shall be at least equal to 10% of the approved budget for the contract to be bid.
  8. Valid joint venture agreement, in case of a joint venture.
  9. Sworn statement that each of the documents submitted in satisfaction of the eligibility requirements is an authentic and original copy, or a true and faithful reproduction or copy of the original, complete, and that all statements and information provided therein are true and correct.
- B. TECHNICAL DOCUMENTS:
  1. The Bid Security as to form, amount and validity period
  2. Authorization of representative thru a Special Power of Attorney
  3. Production/Delivery schedule
  4. Manpower Requirements
  5. After-sales service/parts, if applicable
  6. Technical Specifications
  7. A sworn affidavit of the bidder that it is not related to the head of the procuring entity by consanguinity or affinity up to the third civil degree.
  8. Sworn statement that bidder shall abide with whatever stipulations, terms & conditions agreed upon by the procuring entity and the prospective bidder during the pre-bid conference.
- C. FINANCIAL DOCUMENTS:
  1. Bid prices in the Bill of Quantities
  2. The recurring and the maintenance costs, if applicable

All bids shall be accompanied by a Bid Security, payable to the City of Bais, in any of the following schedule:

Form of Security	MINIMUM AMOUNT in % of Approved Budget for the Contract to be Bid
1. Cash, Certified Check, Cashier's Check, Manager's Check, Bank Draft or Irrevocable Letter of Credit	One (1%) percent
2. Bank Guarantee	One & a half (1-½%) percent
3. Surety Bond	Two & a half (2-½%) percent
4. Foreign Government Guarantee	One hundred (100%) percent

Bids and Bids Securities shall be valid for a reasonable period and shall be indicated in the bidding documents, but in no case shall exceed 120 calendar days from the date of the opening of bids.

Bid documents can be obtained at the BAC Secretariat, c/o Office of the City General Services Officer, this City, Tel. No. (035) 541-5114, (035) 402-8115 and (035) 541-5302 anytime during office hours and upon payment of non-refundable fee of **P5,000.00** per set; and can also be inquired for further particulars.

Pre-bid conference shall be held on **Aug. 16, 2004** at the Office of the City Mayor, at 10:00 A.M.

Eligibility, Technical, and Financial documents shall be submitted together each in separate sealed envelopes on **Aug. 27, 2004** at the BAC Secretariat, Office of the City Mayor, this City, at 2:00 P.M., at which date, place, time, said envelopes shall be opened in the presence of the members of the BAC, the attending bidders, the observers, or their duly authorized representative.

All other particulars relative to the procurement process shall be governed by the Implementing Rules and Regulations of R.A. 9184 otherwise known as the Gov't. Procurement Reform Act.

The City Gov't. of Bais reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to declare a failure of bidding, to waive any defects or informalities therein and to accept such bids as maybe considered most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) **CARMELINO L. MORALES**
City General Services Officer
Chairman

(PDI–Aug 3 & 6, 2004)

REPUBLIKA NG PILIPINAS
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
KAGAWARAN NG EDUKASYON
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
DepEd Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City, Philippines

Tanggapan ng Pangalawang Kalihim
Office of the Undersecretary

Telefax : 631-96-40
Direct Line: 633-93-42
Trunk Line: 632-13-61 local 2221/2007
E-Mail Address: jmluz@deped.gov.ph
Website: http://www.deped.gov.ph

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Department of Education through the Health and Nutrition Center is inviting all suppliers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the Supply and Delivery of Glass Ionomer to be used for the Atraumatic Restorative Treatment (ART) Project of the Department. The approved budget for the contract shall be P1,650,000.00.

All interested suppliers may avail of the bidding documents upon submission of a Letter of Intent and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Five Hundred Pesos (P500.00) starting **July 26 – August 12, 2004,** at the BAC Secretariat Office, Rm. 112-A, Mabini Bldg., DepEd Complex, Pasig City or visit the DepEd Website at ***http://www.deped.gov.ph.***

A pre-bid conference will be held on **August 5, 2004, 10:00 a.m.** at Bulwagan ng Karunungan, Rizal Bldg. 1, DepEd Complex, Pasig City. The deadline for the submission and opening of bids shall be on August 19, 2004 at the same time and place mentioned above.

DepEd-BAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids to waive deficiencies embodied therein without assuming any obligation whatsoever to offset expenses or losses the bidder may incur in the preparation of the bids. DepEd-BAC further reserves the right to declare a failure of bid, or not award the contract, and makes no assurance that a contract shall be entered into as a result of this invitation.

(Sgd.) **JUAN MIGUEL M. LUZ**
Undersecretary
Chairman, DepEd-BAC

(PDI–July 27 & Aug. 3, 2004)

TransCo
National Transmission Corporation

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
AD NO. 2004-049

Ref. No.: PB040705-RM0091 / PR Nos.: SCD-04-007619

1. The **NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION, BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE (TRANSCO - BAC) – HEAD OFFICE**, invites local bidders/contractors to apply for eligibility who are:
   - a. Duly licensed Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships; or
   - b. Partnership duly organized under the laws of the Philippines and of which at least sixty percent (60%) of the interest belongs to citizens of the Philippines; or
   - c. Corporations duly organized under the laws of the Philippines, and of which at least sixty percent (60%) of the outstanding capital stock belongs to citizens of the Philippines; or
   - d. Manufacturers, suppliers and/or distributors forming themselves into a joint venture, i.e., group of two (2) or more manufacturers, suppliers and/or distributors that intend to be jointly and severally responsible or liable for a particular contract: Provided, however, That Filipino ownership or interest of the joint venture concerned shall be at least sixty percent (60%); or
   - e. Cooperatives duly registered with the Cooperatives Development Authority (CDA).
2. Procurement of : **INTELLIGENT ELECTRONIC DEVICES / METERS**
3. The Contract to be performed by the successful bidder shall be specified in the Technical Quotation Form of the Bid Documents to be issued.
   The Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to be Bid is
   TWO MILLION PESOS (Php2,000,000.00) to be sourced from the Internal Cash Generation of TransCo.
4. The Bid Documents will be available for issuance starting July 27, 2004 to August 24, 2004 (from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.) at the BAC Secretariat Office, National Transmission Corporation, Materials Management Division (MMD), Ground Floor, Transco Main Bldg., Power Center, Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City upon payment of non-refundable fee of **Five Hundred Pesos (P500.00)** per set.
5. Pre-Bid Conference will be held on August 11, 2004 at 10:00 A.M. at the Admin Conference Room, G/F, TransCo Main Bldg., Power Center, Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City.
6. Deadline for submission, receipt and opening of bids shall be on or before 10 A.M. of August 25, 2004 at the Admin Conference Room, Ground Floor, TransCo Main Bldg., Power Center, Quezon Ave. corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City. If the date falls on a non-working day or declared non-working day, the deadline for submission shall be moved to the next working day immediately following said date. Late submission and/or incomplete bid documents shall not be accepted.
7. All particulars relative to the eligibility, bidding, evaluation of bids and award of contract shall be governed by the Implementing Rules and Regulations-A of Republic Act 9184.
8. TransCo reserves the right to reject any Application for Eligibility or all bids without offering any reasons, waive any required formality therein, and to make an award to the bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the government.
9. Additional information shall be furnished upon request. All communications should be addressed to the undersigned at the aforementioned address.

(Sgd.) **ANTONIO G. LABAYANI**
Chairman, Bids and Award Committee

(PDI – July 28 & August 3, 2004)

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Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City

FISHERIES ADMINISTRATIVE)
ORDER NO. 223-1 :
Series of 2004)

SUBJECT : Amending Sections 1 and 2 of Fisheries Administrative Order No. 223, s. of 2003, re: Moratorium on the Issuance of New Commercial Fishing Vessel and Gear License (CFVGL)

SECTION 1. The period of registration for inventory of the Philippine commercial fishing vessels and gears provided in Section 1 of Fisheries Administrative Order No. 223 (FAO 223) is hereby extended up to October 29, 2004.

SECTION 2. The one-year period of moratorium on the issuance of new CFVGL imposed under Section 2 of FAO 223 is hereby adjusted accordingly to begin on October 30, 2004 and to end on October 30, 2005.

SECTION 3. This Order shall take effect immediately upon publication in two (2) newspapers of general circulation and upon filing with the Office of the National Administrative Register.

Issued on July 27, 2004 in Quezon City, Philippines.

LUIS P. LORENZO, JR.
Secretary

Recommending approval:

MALCOLM I. SARMIENTO, JR.
BFAR National Director

CESAR M. DRILON, JR.
Undersecretary

(PDI – August 3, 2004)

Republic of the Philippines
NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Regional Office 6
Bgy. Quintin Salas, Jaro, Iloilo City

NOTICE OF RE-AUCTION

The National Food Authority, Region 6, with its office at Brgy. Quintin Salas, Jaro, Iloilo City invites all interested buyers to participate in the re-auction for the whole lot of 309,160.60 Lkg Raw Sugar at the indicative price of P760.00/Lkg located at different sugar centrals in Negros Occidental and Panay Island:

LOT	PROVINCE	SUGAR CENTRAL	Quantity in Lkg
1	Capiz	Capiz Sugar Central	28,173.56
	Iloilo	Passi I	25, 119.43
		Passi II	16,447.90
	Negros Occ.	BISCOM	84,685.54
		DACONGCOGON	9,711.06
		HPCO	42,718.54
		LA CARLOTA	46,792.27
		SAGAY	11,880.62
		SONEDCO	43,631.68
		TOTAL	309,180.80

The sale shall be on a "Whole Lot" basis.

All interested buyers are required to post a bond equivalent to 10% of the total amount offered in the form of Cash / Manager's / Cashier's Check payable to NFA. A pre-auction conference will be conducted before the auction proper.

Interested buyers shall submit the following documents to the Bidding Committee during the pre-auction conference:

1. Original and one (1) Certified photo copy of sugar trading license / registration.
2. Duly notarized Special Power of Attorney from the single proprietor or Board Resolution from the Secretary/chairman certifying that the representative is presently connected with the entity as an official/employee/stockholder and is authorized to represent in the auction and all activities pertinent therein.

The above-stated documents can be submitted starting August 4 to 5, 2004 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. only to Bidding secretariat.

Venue of Pre-Auction Conference and Auction Proper	– Conference Room, 2nd Floor NFA, Iloilo Regional Office Quintin Salas, Jaro, Iloilo City
Pre-Auction Conference	– August 6, 2004, 10:00 A.M.
Auction Proper	– Right after Pre-Auction Conference

Tender forms for the auction can be obtained at NFA Iloilo Regional Office after payment of a non-refundable fee of P200.00

The NFA reserves the right to reject any or all offers, to waive any defects or informalities found therein and accept only such offers which in its judgment are deemed most reasonable and advantageous to the National Food Authority.

For more details, please contact RBAC Chairperson or Ms. Marilou M. Paguntalan at Telephone Nos. (033) 320-62-46 and 329-21-65.

(Sgd.) **VILMA H. ZARRAGA, MNSA**
RBAC Chairperson

(PDI – August 3, 2004)

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in Luzon

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J & R Agency
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(fronting Victoria Supermart) Baguio City
Tel. No. (074) 444-6526
Cell No. (0919) 632-6322
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Ms. Loudette Banzon
308 Sampaguita St.
Doña Francisca, Balanga City, Bataan
Tel. No. (047) 2373662
Fax No. (047) 7916152
Batangas City
Mr. Romero Clarin c/o Ms. Wilma C. Dayit
RVC Newsland, 7 P. Burgos Street
Batangas City
Tel. Nos. (043) 723-4426/984-1523
Mr. Ramon P. Perez c/o Ms. Dodie Simon
Perez Educational & Magazine Store
R&S Perez Building, 46 D. Silang St.
Batangas City
Tel. Nos. (043) 723-0616, (043) 980-6942
Lipa City
Ms. Rose Perce
c/o NYR Insurance, Rm. 2, RIISA Bldg.
Rizal St., Lipa City
Tel. Nos. (043)312-2408/756-1330
Bulacan
Mr. Rodolfo D. Gregorio
263 Rizal Street, Tarcan, Baliwag, Bulacan
Tel. No. (044) 766-1280
Cell No. (0917) 882106
Cabanatuan City
Mr. Ruel Capule
#7 Santander Street
Kapt. Pepe Subdivision
Cabanatuan City, Nueva Ecija
Tel. No. (044) 463-0823
Nueva Vizcaya
Himmler John L. Manzano c/o Ms.
Jenny Manzano
Nueva Vizcaya Travel & Tours
Poblacion North Solano, Nueva Vizcaya
Telefax Nos. (078) 3267172/326-7776
Cell No. (0917) 848-3069

Pampanga
Mr. Noel Cabaero
Lot 4 Block 20 Phase II
corner St. Peter and St. Jude Streets
St. Jude Village, San Fernando, Pampanga
Tel. Nos. (045) 963-3718 (0918) 505-6249
Gopaco Building, Dolores Homesite,
McArthur Highway
Dolores, San Fernando, Pampanga
Tel. Nos. (045) 961-3787/860-4132
E-mail: charsum@pamp.pworld.net.ph
Ms. Rowena Rones
#51 Justice Meya St., Villa Gloria Subd.,
Angeles City
Tel. Nos. (045) 888-4565
Pangasinan
Mr. Vic Chua
JVC Cargo Forwarders Co. Ltd.
243 Rizal Street, Calasiao, Pangasinan
Tel. No. (075) 522-0505/517-5095
Mr. Mario Novales
Marigold Bookstore
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Fax No. (075) 522-0079
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Mercado
Leonor's Merrimart
Moreeca Building, E. Valencia Street,
Puerto Princesa City
Tel. Nos. (048) 433-2531/433-2551/
433-6302
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Mr. Richmont Pobre
Agdumag Newsstand,
Stall #7 Tuguegarao Central Market
Gomez Street, Tuguegarao, Cagayan
Tel. Nos. (078) 844-1180/844-0364
E-mail: pobre@cag.pworld.net.ph
Tarlac City
Mr. Erile T. Duduaco c/o E.D. Batteries
F. Tañedo Street, Tarlac City
Tel. No. (045) 982-0653
Cell No. (0917) 448-0551
Fax No. (045) 982-1755
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Mr. Fernando D. Hemedez
Residence: #10 Mauthun Street
Manquita Pueblo Dos, Sta. Rosa, Laguna
Tel. Nos. (049) 531-2778/837-3023
Cell No. (0917) 530-1959
Store #250 J.P. Rizal Street,
Cabuyao, Laguna
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Rizal Street, Cauayan, Isabela
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Ms. Irene Solmirano
Brgy. 34 Oro Site, Legaspi City
Tel. Nos. (052) 820-1374/480-6095/
8208403
Cathy P. Sendin
SM Prieto Marketing
Quezon Avenue, Legaspi City
Tel. Nos. (052) 214-3043/214-3646/820-
3748
Fax No. (052) 214-3043
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Mr. Ramon S. Sia
RS Newspaper & Magazine Headquarters
Stall Nos. 33, 35 & 37
Ground Floor Supermarket
General Luna Street, Naga City
Tel. No. (054) 473-8711
Camarines Norte
Mr. Marcelo Espino
Espino Newspaper & Magazine Store
Gov. Panotes Ave., Daet, Camarines Norte
Tel. No. (054) 4401888
Quezon City
Mr. Antonio Feliciano c/o Ms. Jean
Germalin Enterprises
397 Tandang Sora Avenue,
Culiat, Quezon City
Tel. Nos. 951-7488/931-0108
Rizal
Mr. Jesus Dimagiba
191 Col. Guido Street, Angono, Rizal
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Mr. Raymund Mercado
Hi-Top News Magazine &
General Merchandise
Dr. V. Locsin Street, Dumaguete City
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New Renie's
Dr. V. Locsin Street, Dumaguete City
Tel. Nos. (035) 225-4320/422-7452
Fax No. (035) 255-1182
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c/o Ms. Marilou Ty
Eddie-Mar News & Magazine Center
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Mapa Street, Iloilo City
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Iloilo
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Ms. Marieta Santos
M. Santos Komiks Magazines &
Newspaper Dealer
Door C, MB Building
Fuentes Drive, Roxas City
Tel. Nos. (036) 621-5586/522-6925
Tacloban City
Mr. Neil Montejo
Montejo's Newspaper Supply
246 Avenida Veteranos
Tacloban City
Tel. Nos. (053)325-6743/321-2954
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Mr. Ferdinand Mercado
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WORLD'S FOOD EXPO

BARTENDING & FLAIRTENDING IN WOFEX 2004

World's Food Expo 2004 highlights 2 major competitions in cocktail-mixing & flairtending for professionals during its 4-day run this August 4 to 7, 2004 at the World Trade Center, Manila Philippines. In cooperation with the Philippine Bartenders' League Inc. (PBL), the competitions will include professional bartenders from all over the country. Big cash prizes await winners. WOFEX 2004 prides itself with a record of being one of the very few food shows that has generated a high attendance of over 27,000 trade professionals in its 4-day run. Signing the memorandum of agreement (seated from left) are Joe Cabauatan (PBL Secretary-General), Mutley Matilla (PBL National President), Joel Pascual (President, PEPGround), (standing from left), Jerry Magat (PBL Vice-Chairman), Randy Manaloto (VP-Finance, PEPGroup). For inquiries, call PEPGroup at 4364209, 4364898, 9297993 or 63, 4269603 or email at info@PEPGroup.com.

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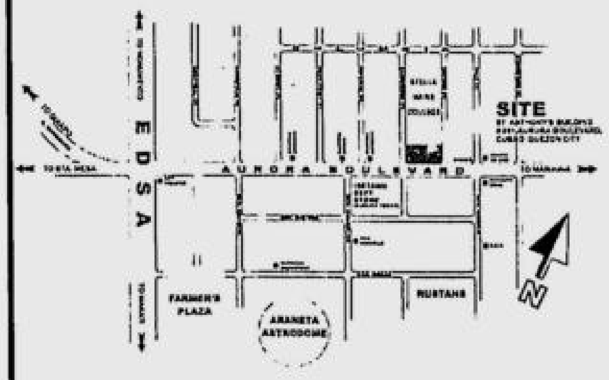

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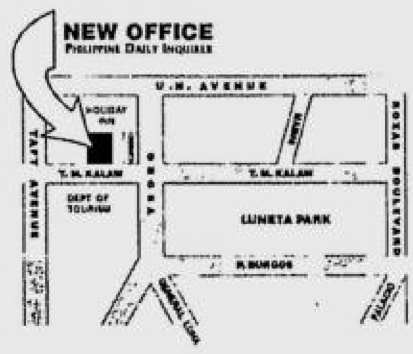

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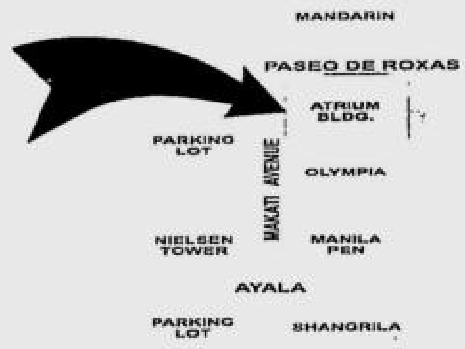

Oath taking of new social workers

THE BOARD for Social Workers of the Professional Regulatory Commission announces the oath taking of 553 new social workers who passed the June 2004 Licensure Examination for Social Workers. The Oath Taking Ceremony is scheduled on Aug. 5, 1:30 p.m., at the UPAA Ang Bahay ng Alumni, University of the Philippines, Diliman, Quezon City. The program will highlight the traditional oath taking rites of the incoming professionals. Moreover the top 10 examinees will be honored together with the two top performing schools for the year. DSWD Undersecretary Lualhati Pablo will grace the affair as guest speaker. Registration of oath takers and their guests was scheduled from July 12 to July 30, to resume on Aug. 5, just before the Oath Taking Ceremony.

Photo contest

ON ITS 170th anniversary, Ayala and Filipinas Heritage Library, now celebrating its 8th year, present "Noon at Ngayon," a photography competition-exhibit on the evolution of Philippine architecture. The competition is open to all amateur film and digital photographers. An entry will consist of a historic photograph from the Library's Retrato photo collection and a contemporary photograph of the same subject/location taken in the last two years. Interested parties may submit a maximum of 2 entries either in black and white or color, with the accomplished forms. Entries should be 8"x10" in size, and mounted on the black part of an illustration board using photo corners. Entry photos should be submitted not later than 5 p.m. of Aug. 14, or postmarked Aug. 7. The first prize will receive P5,000 and SS-110 package (a set of 2 studio lights with carrying bag), second prize: P3,000 and Sigma lens 28-200mm, and 3rd prize: P2,000 and R210 Epson Photo printer. Winning entries will also be displayed at the Alcove Photo Gallery of the Filipinas Heritage Library. For the complete mechanics of the contest, please call 892-1801 or 759-3371, email events@fillib.org.ph or visit www.filipinaslibrary.org.ph. Filipinas Heritage Library is along Makati Avenue opposite The Manila Peninsula.

Kadayawan sa Dabaw '04

DAVAO City celebrates the much-anticipated Kadayawan sa Dabaw a week-long festival that begins Aug. 16 till the 22nd. Dubbed as the festival of festivals, the Kadayawan sa Dabaw features very exciting and colorful multi-sensory events such as the Davao River Festival, Agongan ug Kulintangan, Bagobo horsefight, Indak-Indak sa Dalanan and the floral float parade. Also in the line-up of must-see events are Hiyas sa Kadayawan, the annual search for ideal Mindanaoans; and the Mindanao Indigenous Dance festival - theatrical tribal suites of dances and music depicting Mindanao epics. Not to be missed are the 9th Philippine Floriculture Congress, agro-industrial trade fair and city wide sales and exhibits. Call the Kadayawan sa Davao foundation (082)224-6319 for more details.

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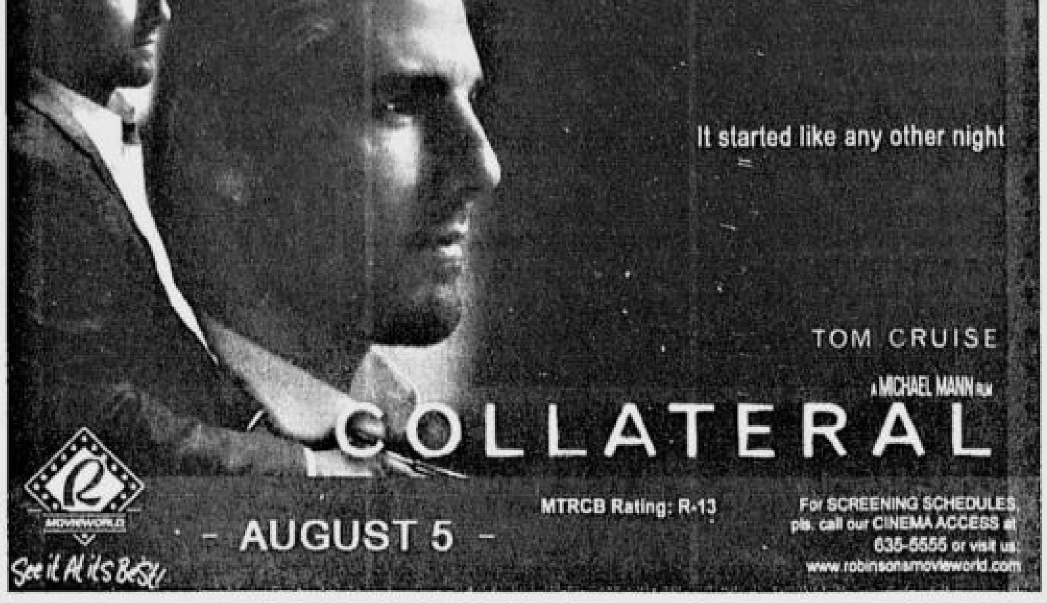

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3 (DOLBY) SOON TO OPEN

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3 (DOLBY)	I - ROBOT
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Cine Nepo
(Dagupan City) tel (075) 515.8489

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3 (DOLBY)	KING ARTHUR
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3 (DOLBY)	I - ROBOT
4 (DOLBY)	ELLA ENCHANTED

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3 (DOLBY)	KING ARTHUR

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3 (DOLBY)	KING ARTHUR
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3 (DOLBY)	MEAN GIRLS

Lianas Cinema
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2	PERLAS
3	KISKISAN
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3 (DTS)	CATWOMAN
4	PERLAS
5	MEAN GIRLS

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6	IMELDA
7	WEREWOL(GINGERSNAPS 2)
8	AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS
9	BEAUTIFUL LIFE
10	CATWOMAN
11	ALONG CAME POLLY
12	LIBERATED 2

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
9350749

1	IMELDA
2	LIBERATED 2
3	AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS
4	I, ROBOT
5	CATWOMAN
6	BEAUTIFUL LIFE
7	CATWOMAN
8	SPIDERMAN 2
9	ELLA ENCHANTED
10	KING ARTHUR
11	ALONG CAME POLLY
12	WEREWOLF(GINGERSNAPS 2)

SM CITY MANILA
5239240

1	ELLA ENCHANTED
2	I, ROBOT
3	IMELDA
4	CATWOMAN
5	KING ARTHUR
6	CATWOMAN
7	ALONG CAME POLLY
8	PRINCE AND ME
9	AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS
10	LIBERATED 2
11	SPIDERMAN 2
12	BEAUTIFUL LIFE

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
9295452

1	CATWOMAN
2	ELLA ENCHANTED
3	BEAUTIFUL LIFE
4	KING ARTHUR
5	IMELDA
6	SPIDERMAN 2
7	I, ROBOT
8	CATWOMAN

SM CITY STA. MESA
7149522 • 7161416

1	I, ROBOT
2	KING ARTHUR
3	ELLA ENCHANTED
4	IMELDA
5	CATWOMAN
6	ALONG CAME POLLY
7	CATWOMAN
8	AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS
9	BEAUTIFUL LIFE
10	SPIDERMAN 2

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2514302

1	CATWOMAN
2	I, ROBOT
3	ELLA ENCHANTED
4	BEAUTIFUL LIFE

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SM CITY MARILAO
(044) 933 2013 to 17

1	AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS
2	KING ARTHUR
3	BEAUTIFUL LIFE
4	I, ROBOT

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7128015

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2	I, ROBOT
3	ALONG CAME POLLY
4	PRINCE & ME
5	LIBERATED 2
6	BEAUTIFUL LIFE

SM CITY BAGUIO
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3	BEAUTIFUL LIFE
4	I, ROBOT

South

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2	ELLA ENCHANTED
3	CATWOMAN
4	I, ROBOT
5	SPIDERMAN 2
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2	ELLA ENCHANTED
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6	I, ROBOT
7	BEAUTIFUL LIFE
8	SPIDERMAN 2

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2	I, ROBOT
3	ELLA ENCHANTED
4	KING ARTHUR
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6	IMELDA
7	AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS
8	CATWOMAN

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1	MEAN GIRLS
2	RESERVED
3	KING ARTHUR
4	ALONG CAME POLLY
5	I, ROBOT
6	CATWOMAN
7	RESERVED
8	LIBERATED 2

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1	CATWOMAN
2	BEAUTIFUL LIFE
3	LIBERATED 2
4	IMELDA
5	ELLA ENCHANTED
6	I, ROBOT

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO
(088) 8592884

1	CATWOMAN
2	I, ROBOT
3	CATWOMAN
4	KING ARTHUR

THE PODIUM CINEMA

1
CATWOMAN
10:50 FS/11:20 MF/1:40/4:00/6:20/8:40/ 10:30 LFS/11:00 LMF/12:50 END

2
IMELDA
11:25 FS/ 11:55/2:05/ 4:15/6:25/8:35/ 10:20 LFS/10:45 LMF/ 12:30 END

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SM CINEMA

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CATWOMAN

Just buy (2) two movie tickets to see Catwoman and grab hold of the special, limited Catwoman stickers to be given away on the first regular showing day of Catwoman at all SM Cinema branches, except Marilao

But that's not all, get whipped with any of these fabulous prizes in the raffle draw* to be held on August 16, 2004 at WATC Corporate Office

Promo runs from July 28 - August 8, 2004
See posters for mechanics.

*The raffle promo is exclusive to SM Sta. Mesa, Southmall, Fairview, Iloilo, Davao & Cagayan de Oro branches only.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3088, Series of 2004

now showing

MTRCB Rating: G

DIAL 8339999 for screening schedules

Grab!

Enjoy the Catwoman movie meal, now available at the Snack Bar!

Movies are subject to change without prior notice

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

BUSINESS

BIR to file tax evasion cases vs 24 retailers

By Michelle V. Remo

THE BUREAU of Internal Revenue is set to file tax evasion cases totaling about P300 million against 24 medium-sized retail traders for allegedly under-declaring their value-added tax (VAT) and income tax liabilities.

BIR Deputy Commissioner for prosecution Licerio Evangelista told reporters the revenue agency would file the cases with the respective fiscal's offices within the week, and expected the cases to be brought to the Court of Tax Appeals immediately after initial investigations have been made by the fiscals.

"The BIR has decided to run after these companies after they failed to respond to the letters of notices that we sent them. Tax evasion is a felony and a serious crime, and so we want to send the strong message that we will not tolerate it," Evangelista told reporters after yesterday's centennial celebration of the BIR.

Evangelista said Revenue Commissioner Guillermo Parayno Jr. has already approved the filing of cases against 13 companies over the weekend, and was expected to sign the filing of the remaining 11 to submit them to the fiscal's offices before the end of the week.

Evangelista said the BIR was able to detect the tax delinquency of the 24 companies after using third-party information provided by the firms' clients. The use of third-party information, which includes purchases made by client-firms, is a method recently undertaken by the BIR to detect tax cheats. The method of detecting tax leakages through third-party sources is called Reconciliation of Listings for Enforcement (Relief).

Evangelista said that under Relief, the BIR gathered the list of purchases by companies belonging to the large-taxpayers bracket, including SM Group of companies, Smart Communications and Globe Telecommunications. The lists were compared with the sales declaration made by the selling companies, including the 24 firms that will be charged with tax evasion.

The BIR official said the revenue agency found out that the 24 firms had under-declared their tax liabilities by 70 to 80 percent, resulting in about P300 million in lost revenue for the government.

Evangelista said the BIR would disclose the identity of the 24 firms after all the cases have been filed within the week.

The BIR official said the filing of the cases against the retail trading companies would be a precedent in the revenue agency's drive against tax delinquents.

He said the BIR's prosecution team was targeting to work on at least one tax evasion case for each of its 117 revenue districts. As an initial step, setting the target of at least one strong tax evasion case for every district would be enough to send a strong signal against tax evaders.

SMUGGLING CHARGES

Ecozone firm loses incentives

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE GOVERNMENT has revoked the registration for investment incentives of a garment firm for its involvement in smuggling into the country some 8,260 tons of used clothes.

The report came in the wake of a warning from the Federation of Philippine Industries, which had said smuggled used clothing that have found their way to "ukay-ukay" shops all over the country has resulted to the continuing decline in the viability of the local garments industry.

According to the Department of Trade and Industry, the Philippine Economic Zone Authority canceled the registration of Pearl City Garments Inc. as an ecozone export enterprise in the Mactan Export Processing Zone 1.

Data from Peza showed that the company, formerly known as Pearl City Manufacturing Corp., is American-owned and is engaged in the recycling and processing of used clothing into wool fiber, cotton fiber, polyester fiber, usable clothing and industrial wiping rugs.

The company was first registered with Peza in January 1992. This entitled Pearl City to enjoy an income tax holiday, tax and duty relief on the importation of capital equipment, and exemption from wharfage dues and export taxes as well as other fiscal and non-fiscal perks.

The DTI added that the Peza's physical inventory in March 2004 showed that Pearl City had unaccounted importation of 8.26 million kilograms or 330 containers of used clothing materials from January 2003 up to that time.

Last May, Peza made a special audit of Pearl City with a representative of the National Anti-Smuggling Task Force observing the procedure.

The investigation showed that Pearl City failed to account for a shortage of 7.79 million kilos of imported used clothing. The company also failed to present documents to show what it did to scraps and excess materials.

The DTI said that in 1999, Pearl City had been fined heavily when—with the use of private vehicles—it brought into the Mactan ecozone 102 bales or about 4.8 tons of used clothing without Peza approval.

The Peza had warned the company that "a similar violation in the future shall be dealt with most severely and shall constitute a sufficient ground for the automatic cancellation of its registration with (Peza)."

BEST ANNUAL REPORTS AWARDS
The Management Association of the Philippines (MAP), in cooperation with PLDT, recently held the awards night for the best annual reports. The awards aim to encourage the publication of accurate, informative, timely and well-presented annual reports for the benefit of all stakeholders. At the awarding are (from left): 2004 MAP president and SGV chair David L. Balangue, PLDT chair Manuel Pangilinan, DBP chair Simeon Paterno, MAP project chair Consul Edward L. Fereira and former presidential spokesperson Michael Toledo, who hosted the awards.

Passion

WIN REWARDS FOR YOUR PICTURE-PERFECT REVO!

Send your old or new, unusual, extraordinary and fun pictures of your Toyota Revo or Tamaraw FX and get a chance to win as much as ₱100,000!

The contest is open to all amateur and professional photographers. Selected entries will be included in an exhibit.

No purchase required.

REVO REFLECTIONS

Mechanics:
- Participants will be invited to submit their photographs of the Revo as depicted in the theme "REVO: REFLECTIONS", focusing on Filipino heritage and lifestyle.
- These may be past photographs or newly taken ones.
- The photograph may include any variant and features of the Revo, dating from 1991 to present.
- All entries may be submitted in Black and White or Full Color.
- Film entries should be printed on photo paper, sized to 8"x10" with their corresponding negative files.
- Digital entries should be printed on photo paper, sized to 8"x10" with their corresponding digital file copy on CD, zip or 3.5 floppy disk.
- Deadline of entries is on 31 August 2004 (12 o'clock midnight).

PRIZES
One (1) winner of each:
Grand Prize = Php 100,000
Second Prize = Php 75,000
Third Prize = Php 50,000
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Contest period is until August 31, 2004 (12o'clock midnight) See poster for details Go to your nearest Toyota dealer for entry forms.

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E-mail: pr_real_estate@inquirer.com.ph
Editor Cesar D. Mangawang

Sustainable housing for everyone

By Alexis A. Acacio, PhD

BUILDING DREAMS

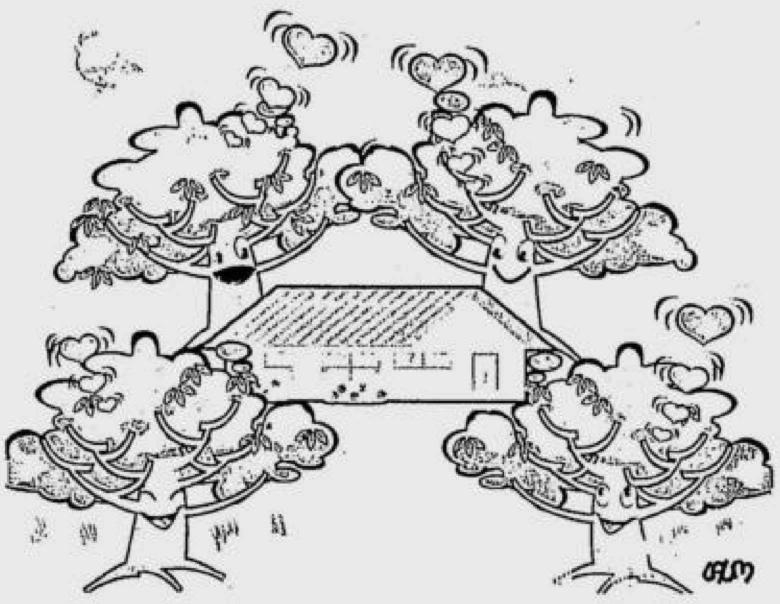
SUSTAINABLE development means that the present needs of the current generation is responsibly being met without sacrificing the ability of future generations to meet their needs. In housing development, it is the environment-friendly home that has become the symbol of responsible building.

What is an environment-friendly home? It is a home that not only meets the needs of its occupants or users but is built with resource efficiency using renewable, environment-friendly materials.

The responsible builder, aware of taking care of the environment to conserve its resources, should look at the following aspects of development:

- **Environmental Solutions**—The builder makes sure that all of the construction processes would not damage the environment at all or if cannot be avoided, provide minimal impact.
- **Insulation**—To conserve energy, the insulating system of the home would make sure the heat being brought into the house mainly through the roof is reduced so that the house is comfortable enough. In colder climates, the insulation keeps the occupants warm. The effect of insulation is reduced air-conditioning and heating bills.
- **Solar Water Heater**—The solar heater produces hot water with the use of solar energy thereby reducing the consumption of electricity. Solar panels are commonly placed in the roof to absorb and store solar energy. Although the initial cost of a solar water heater system is high, it might be cheaper in the long run. To calculate the actual savings you could get by using one, it is best to consult your designer on this matter.
- **Waste Water Treatment Systems**—Many years ago, dirty water was simply brought back to the environment through canals and open drainage lines. But today, they have to be treated before they can be brought back to the ground. By proper treatment, it is made sure that dirty water does not contaminate the ground when

SUSTAINABLE/ C2



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Join the BPI Family Savings Bank
ERASE your HOUSING LOAN Promo

Get the chance to erase ₱100,000, ₱250,000, ₱500,000 or even ₱1,000,000 from your Happy Family Housing Loan!

MECHANICS:

1. All clients who avail of a BPI Family Savings Bank Happy Family Housing Loan, for a minimum loan amount of ₱400,000, from August 1 to December 15, 2004 will be entitled to a raffle ticket. Loan availments coursed through any BPI, BPI Family Savings Bank Branch, Express Banking Center or Business Center nationwide or through BPI Express Online are qualified to join the promo.
2. There will be one raffle ticket number for every loan booked. The raffle ticket number will correspond to the loan account number.
3. To qualify for the promo, the purpose of the loan should be any of the following:
   - Purchase of Lot, House and Lot, Townhouse or Residential Condominium
   - House Construction
   - Home Renovation
   - Refinancing of existing loan with other banks
   - Multi-purpose Loan
4. There will be three draws and one Grand Draw wherein client's loan will be erased up to ₱1 Million. Non-winning loan accounts are still qualified in the succeeding draws. The draw dates are as follows:

First Draw : September 10, 2004 (Friday) - cut-off dates: August 1 to August 31, 2004
Second Draw : October 8, 2004 (Friday) - cut-off dates: August 1 to September 30, 2004
Third Draw : November 12, 2004 (Friday) - cut-off dates: August 1 to October 31, 2004
Grand Draw : December 23, 2004 (Thursday) - cut-off dates: August 1 to December 15, 2004

The prizes are as follows:
1st Draw - 3 winners of ₱100,000.00 each, tax-free, to be applied to the principal balance.
2nd Draw - 2 winners of ₱250,000.00 each, tax-free, to be applied to the principal balance.
3rd Draw - 1 winner of ₱500,000.00, tax-free, to be applied to the principal balance.*

Grand Draw - 1 winner of ₱1.0 Million, tax-free, to be applied to the entire loan.*

*In the event that the outstanding balance of the winner is less than the prize amount, the difference will be credited to the winner's settlement account.

5. All eligible accounts must be in current status as of raffle draw date to be included in the raffle.
6. Each account number may win only once during the entire promo period.
7. Winners will be notified through registered mail and will be published in leading newspapers.
8. All employees of the Unibank, its subsidiaries, its advertising and promo agencies and their relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity/affinity are disqualified to join this promo.
9. Prizes are neither transferable nor convertible to cash.
10. Taxes on prizes exceeding ₱10,000 will be shouldered by BPI Family Savings Bank.
11. In cases of dispute, the decision of BPI Family Savings Bank, with the concurrence of DTI, shall be deemed final.

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1211, Series of 2004.

Embracing the 'faster, better, cheaper' approach to building structures

By Charles E. Buban

WHEN THE UNITED States' National Aeronautics and Space Administration (Nasa) began its New Millennium program in the early '90s, it trumpeted a new slogan: "Faster, Better, Cheaper," an approach that simply means decreasing the time of designing, building and launching new spacecraft while holding down the typically staggering costs.

This was Nasa's response to its continuously shrinking budget that could no longer tolerate expensive undertakings like it had accomplished in the '60s up to the '80s.

From now on, Nasa must come up with a more imaginative and successful space program utilizing small, less expensive and generally less expansive projects.

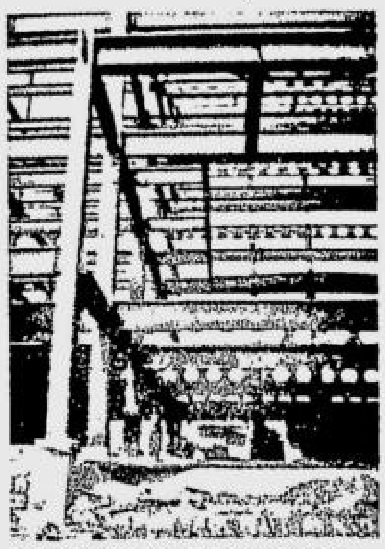
Seeing the value of this new philosophy, other industries followed in the footsteps of Nasa to address their own respective challenges.

Spiraling cost of materials

In the case of the construction industry, the challenge is how to build infrastructures in a shorter time, esthetically pleasing and structurally sound, and of course, costs less.

"And these are not easy to achieve considering the spiraling cost of building materials not to mention that some of these (construction) materials had dwindled in supply or has become limited," explained structural engineer Restituto Abad Jr. of LA Global Estate Development and Construction Corp.

Indeed, it was only a matter of time before property developers would put a closer look at project costs and put a tight watch on the budget.



STEEL framework can achieve the same sturdiness that a reinforced concrete framework can provide yet costs much less.

And yet, Abad explained, engineers cannot just build structures that use inferior materials to save money or architects to create lackluster designs just to be within budget.

Using value engineering

Formed two years ago, LAGEDCC specializes in property development and construction using structural value engineering.

Structural value engineering is a field of civil engineering specializing in the structural analysis and design of any structure with emphasis on the most economical yet safe structural design.

"Structural value engineering is not a new idea. Sadly, it was not given much consideration in the past. But with the ever-rising cost of almost everything, it now makes sense to employ it in the design of every horizontal (highways, airport runways, bridges) and vertical (houses, high-rise developments, factories) structures without sacrificing the overall structural integrity of the structure and without alteration of the basic architectural design requirement," Abad explained.

But can building structures be done on the cheap?

Several areas

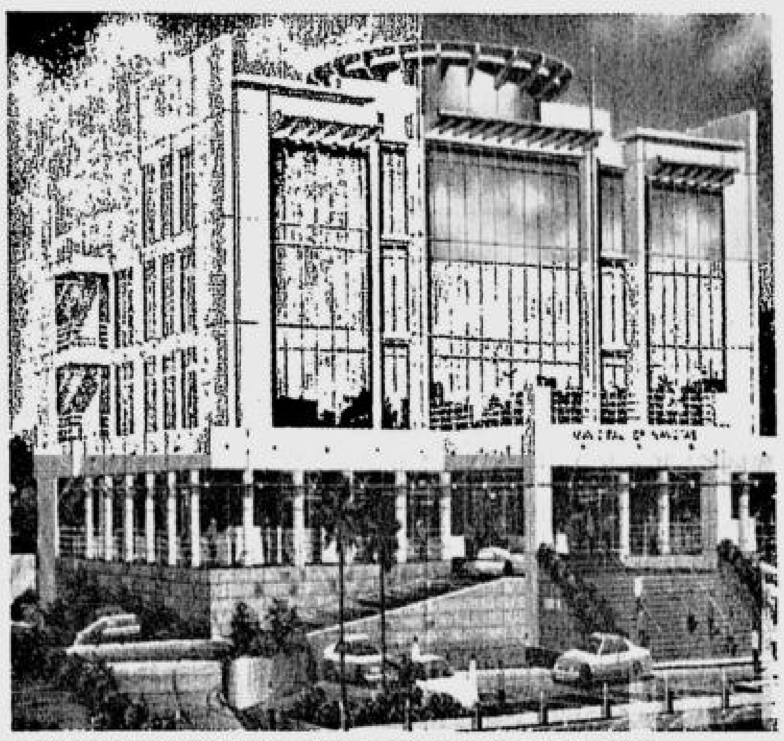
"There are several areas where a structural value engineer can get savings without using inferior quality materials or changing the entire design," explained Abad.

According to him, cost savings may be extracted by using several methods or techniques.

Possible areas

The following are among the possible areas where a structural value engineer may look in to get the desired savings:

- Choice of the structural material to be used (whether to use structural steel, concrete, or combination of the two)
- Adoption of the appropriate materials for structural slab systems, nonstructural wall systems, and other structural systems
- Choice of structural design techniques and structural systems
- Art of detailing the workability and fastest implementation
- Iterative process of devising structural schemes to produce optimum and most economical design.



ARTIST'S rendition of the finished Navotas Municipal Hall

"Even using a different building material, like steel instead of reinforced concrete, can cut cost without changing the structural stability. It can even make work faster, which means you save on man hours and shorter construction time," he explained.

Derive savings

"The savings that can be derived from here can range from 15 percent to 30 percent of the total structural construction cost, which is about 7.5 percent to 15 percent of the total project cost," revealed Abad.

To prove his point, Abad revealed one of the projects his R Abad Jr. & Associates Engineering Consultancy firm helped design.

"Led by Navotas Mayor (Tobias Reynald) Tiangco, the municipal government decided to build a new five-story municipal hall. We showed them the savings they could get without actually changing their original design," related Abad.

P14M savings

From the building's estimated cost of P140 million, LAGEDCC was able to provide the Navotas local government a total savings amounting to P14 million in the construction of the building.

"The cost-reducing structural value engineering technique was done before the short list of contractors submitted their respective bids, creating tremendous savings on the part of the Navotas local government," Abad added.

The design technique employed by LAGEDCC can achieve savings ranging from P500 to P1,200 per square meter in each building floor area (out of the total structural construction cost).

"And it can be applied basically to all structures. In fact, if these cost savings were applied to a typical 20-story building with a per level floor area of 1,000 sq m, the total savings would amount to about P20 million to a high P24 million," Abad computed.

Working in alliance

Abad revealed that a structural value engineer usually comes in during the planning stage just after project engineers are done with the project's preliminary design.

"We value-engineer the project's preliminary design, meaning we analyze and determine the most cost-effective way to build it. It's some sort of fine-tuning the design before going to the next stage, which is the actual construction itself," explained Abad.

Abad said they also need the initial input from the project engineer. "We cannot just start right away, otherwise we will have to make two models that we could compare and compute savings from."

According to Abad, almost 35 to 50 percent of the total project cost is allocated to the cost of the structure (foundation to superstructure) in which savings can be possible extracted.

DESPITE THE COST-SAVING measures done by LAGEDCC, the building retained its original design.

Revolutionizing testing system for construction materials

WHO would have thought that a seemingly insignificant piece of metal can be the key to stronger and safer buildings and infrastructures?

Such is the concept of LYNX—the first-of-its-kind innovative system introduced in the market that is set to revolutionize the local construction industry's traditional materials testing processes.

LYNX is being introduced in the market through the consortium of four leading IT companies—MTR Corp. of Hong Kong, Philips of Japan, ACG-Asia Pacific of Germany and Unlimited Solutions of the Philippines.

The LYNX is an innovative system that leverages on the RFID, or Radio Frequency Identification. It offers a comprehensive blend of solutions for the testing of construction materials to help contractors and developers streamline testing processes in a more efficient and cost-effective approach.

RFID is a wireless link, using microchips, to uniquely identify people or objects. In this case, the microchip is embedded on the sample concrete cube to be tested and encrypted with various data relevant to the contractors.

Benefits of the LYNX include the prevention of sample switching, protection of the integrity of test sample data, reduction of administrative costs through less paperwork, and real-time retrieval of test data and reports.

The system can also generate various analysis as requested by a client long after the building has been constructed.

Eradicating malpractices

Ian J. Shelley, consultant for MTR said the accuracy of RFID can be a tool to eradicate certain malpractices in the industry.

"Sad to say but there are instances of cheating in the industry, particularly during the testing process, the repercussions of which are extremely hazardous."

"The safety and stability of any building or structure must always be considered. The LYNX system will be one of the key factors toward this goal."

Cost-effective

Holger Roessner, managing director and partner of ACG-Asia Pacific, one of the major global suppliers of RFID, highlighted the cost-effectiveness of the system.

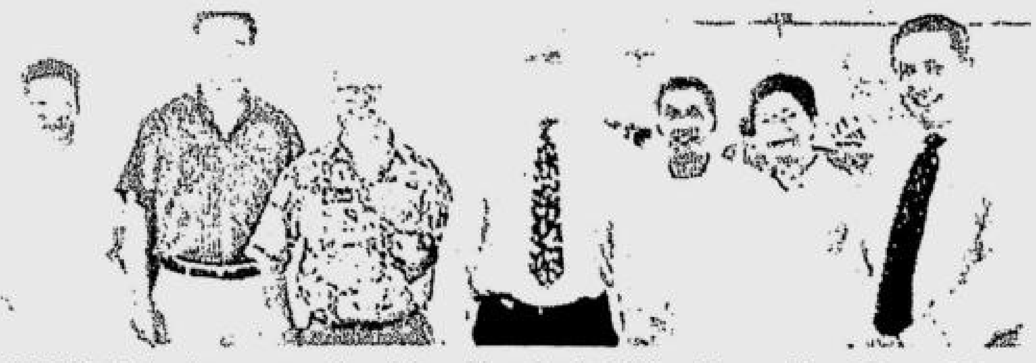
Philips regional manager Arthur Pok expresses his optimism of the system's adoption in the local market.

"The LYNX will eventually help the Philippine economic landscape be at par with our global counterparts, thus generating more business opportunities for the country."

Northgate Cyberzone begins HDPP building construction

GROUNDBREAKING ceremonies were held recently in Northgate CyberZone for the five-story building to be occupied by HSBC Electronic Data Processing (Philippines) Inc., the 8th group service center in Asia of the UK-based HSBC Group. The building is scheduled for completion in mid-2005.

Northgate CyberZone's accessibility, comprehensive infrastructure, superior lifestyle amenities and package of tax incentives for qualified technology locator make it an ideal site for HDPP's 24/7 operation. Northgate CyberZone is an information technology park registered with the Philippine Economic Zone Authority (Peza) and located within Filinvest Corporate City in Alabang.



PRESENT during the event are, from left, architect Juanito Tablizo (vice president, Filinvest Alabang Inc.), engineer Juanchito Bernardo (president/CEO, JBDEC), lawyer Efren Gutierrez (president, FAI), David Sutton (president, HDPP), Jun Gonzales (project development manager, FAI), Ieyo de Guzman (first vice president, FAI) and Robert Muth (HSBC head of global resourcing).

Sustainable housing for everyone

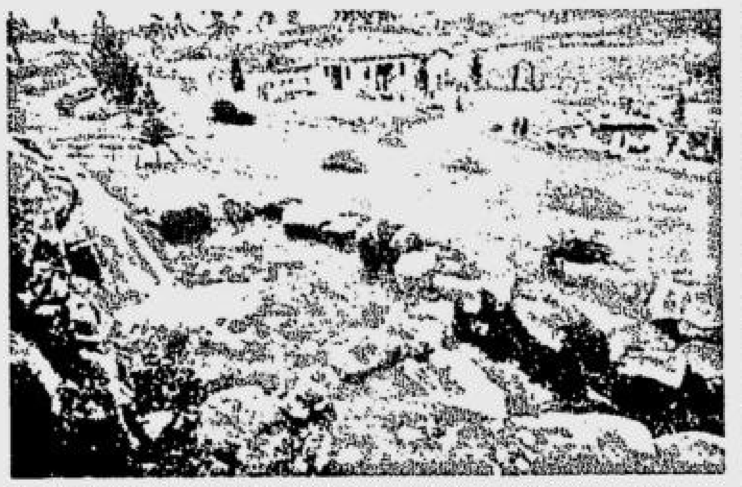
From page C1

it goes back to the environment.

- **Use of Nontoxic Paints**—Toxic paints can harm the environment and damage the ozone layer. Much worse, it can be a health hazard to home occupants. By using nontoxic paints, the environment is protected and the owners of the home are ensured of a healthy living environment.
- **Water Conservation Devices**— Modern homes these days use water-saving devices. Most water closets (toilet bowls) use a small amount of water to flush. This is mainly due to the proper design of these fixtures. Sprinkler systems in the garden also provide savings in water consumption.
- **Solar Energy Systems**—Electricity can be derived from solar energy. There are homes in developed countries that utilize solar energy as a source for power. By using these solar energy systems, electrical consumption is greatly reduced.
- **Wind Energy Systems**—There are areas and subdivisions in developed countries that use windmills as a source of power. Although the setup cost of wind-generating facilities is high, the benefits of a reduced consumption of electricity is realized in the long term.

Final Note. Protecting the earth's scarce resources is one of the biggest responsibilities of every designer, builder and owner. Every citizen, together with the government should work together in preserving the world's scarce resources. Since most of us spend most of our time in our homes, any savings in its operation will surely go a long way in protecting the environment.

E-mail the author at aaacacio@pacific.net.ph.



ONCE completed, El Refugio is a perfect place for relaxation.

Landco's Ponderosa slowly taking shape

By Charles E. Buban

PONDEROSA Leisure Farms recently celebrated the unveiling of its El Refugio themed garden, the first (of the three) meditation gardens to be set up in this 53-hectare development located in Silang, Cavite.

Designed by Ponderosa Farms, Inc. (PFI) president and the property's landowner Maria Luisa Perez-Rubio, El Refugio is a landscape of stones, grass, scented vines (honeysuckle) and shrubs (kamuning), and pine trees.

It also features a teahouse, where small gatherings for private functions can be held and a viewing deck offering a commanding view of the garden and the stream that goes through a series of stone bridges and ends up in a pond of clear water filled with ornamental tropical fish.

"The teahouse is also planned to be the home of Ponderosa Garden Club, which will be formed as soon as practicable," revealed Rubio.

Aside from the teahouse, there will also be a kiosk for selling activities.

Over 500 guests

The over 500 guests who attended the unveiling were also treated to a flower arrangement seminar followed by a brief, informative talk on choosing and caring for one's trees, courtesy of Rubio.

Landco Pacific Corp. (LPC), the property's developer, hopes the recent event will persuade more prospective buyers to invest in Ponderosa.

"Ponderosa is envisioned to be a community in bloom, a vacation garden home like no other. It is designed to bring garden lovers together where they can interact, tend their garden without worry or hassle, or just enjoy one another's company," said Alfred Xerez-Burgos III, LPC vice president and Leisure Farms group head.

Second Leisure Farms

Ponderosa is LPC's second Leisure Farms. The first one, located in Lemery, Batangas, is the country's first and leading agro-tourism and hobby farming community.

In its second project, LPC joined hands with Ponderosa Farms to create an exclusive flower garden community amidst a private, classic Mexican-Spanish village setting.

"At Ponderosa, experience nature's finest amidst the comforts of home and the pleasures of paradise," promised Burgos.

Crown Asia launches new phases at Citta Italia, Maia Alta

CROWN Asia, with an established track record of fulfilling families' dreams by building comfortable, well-designed communities complete with amenities and facilities at affordable rates, announces the opening of new phases at Citta Italia in Imus, Cavite and Maia Alta in Antipolo, Rizal.

With the advantage of being lived-in communities, both Citta Italia and Maia Alta are strategically located, where nature is part of a serene environment. The two communities offer great flexibility in choosing among available home models with varying floor areas and lot sizes, thus accommodating different budgets.

Like countryside villages

The Italian inspiration for Citta Italia and Maia Alta, expressed in warm Mediterranean colors and architectural influences amid lush surroundings, makes them reminiscent of countryside villages in Italy.

The new phase at Citta Italia is called Vetta (Italian for "peak"), offering residents the peak of comfortable living. Homeowners can choose from six different model homes, each with three bedrooms and a carport, with floor areas ranging from 96 to 188 square meters, on lot areas from 158 to 240 sq m. Vetta home models with lots start at P2.6 plus million for the Antonella with 96 sq m of floor area and a 158-sq-m lot, a living and dining room, three bedrooms, two toilets and baths, a carport and a balcony. The biggest home model is the Romagna at P5.3 plus million with 188 sq m of floor area and a 240-sq-m lot, a living and dining room, three bedrooms, a family room, a maid's room, three toilets and baths, a lanai, a two-car garage and a balcony.

THE ALLESANDRIA is a family's wish come true, with a living room, dining room, two toilets and baths, three bedrooms, maid's room, balcony and carport, and provisions for a lanai.

THE GRAZIELLA features a living room, dining room, two toilets and baths, three bedrooms, maid's room, balcony and carport. Crown Asia developments are set apart by the quality of their architecture and design, offering value for money.

THE ANTONELLA is a dream home with a living room, dining room, family hall, two toilets and baths, three bedrooms, balcony and carport.

Other Vetta home models are the Simonette, the Graziella, the Francesca and the Allesandria, ranging from P2.7 plus million to P4 million. As part of its well-considered planning and design, Vetta is conveniently sited near Citta Italia's exclusive amenities and facilities that feature a clubhouse, gym, swimming and wading pool, basketball and tennis courts, parks and playground.

4 model homes

Meanwhile, Maia Alta's new phase offers four model homes with lots of varying sizes. The Italian-themed model homes are:

- The Alessia at P1.5 plus million with 60 sq m of floor area and 88 sq m of lot area, a living room, dining room, family hall, one toilet and bath and two bedrooms;
- The Antonella at P2.1 plus million with 96 sq m of floor area and 99 sq m of lot area, a living room, dining room, family hall, two toilets and baths, three bedrooms, balcony and carport;
- The Graziella at P2.7 plus million with 115 sq m of floor area and 132 sq m of lot area, a living room, dining room, two toilets and baths, three bedrooms, maid's room, balcony and carport;
- The Allesandria at P3.3 plus million with 142 sq m of floor area and 150 sq m of lot area, with a living room, dining room, two toilets and baths, three bedrooms, maid's room, balcony and carport, and provisions for a lanai.

Exclusive amenities, facilities

Like Citta Italia, Maia Alta offers residents a range of exclusive amenities and facilities to enjoy.

Residents of both communities are families with young children and hardworking parents who have dreamed of a home as a haven in a friendly community, among neighbors who are their peers.

As contained communities and managed subdivisions, both Citta Italia and Maia Alta boast a peaceful ambiance in which families are safe and secure, living amid refreshing landscaping and greenery. Wide open spaces allow children to frolic, treasuring moments of care-free fun and laughter.

Crown Asia developments are set apart by the quality of their architectural and design features, offering highly competitive value for money. For inquiries, call telephone numbers 873-1614, 871-3882 and 873-8412 for Citta Italia; and 635-4296 and 634-2686 for Maia Alta.

BONIFACIO RIDGE

The answer to families' everyday living needs

JOHN and Jade Amon have been making waves in the advertising industry in two separate agencies for several years now. They married nine years ago, and transferred to Makati City from their former Quezon City residences early on because of their workplaces' locations.

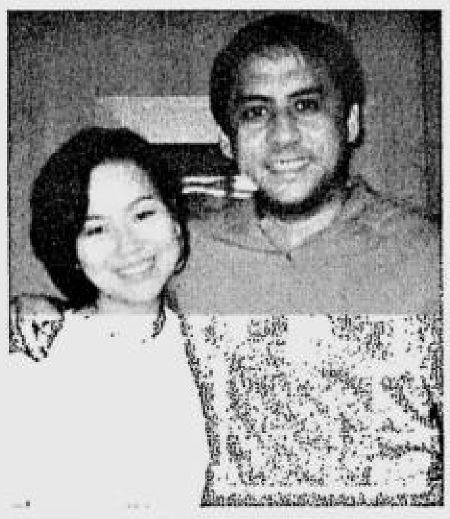
The young power couple has actually been toying with the idea of getting their own place for quite some time but they cannot imagine living far from the area because of their work demands. One of their two kids studies in a nearby school, as well.

Jade shares that rent isn't exactly cheap in Makati, and it was time to move on to an environment that fits the ever-changing needs of their growing family: "We're renting a house. On top of the rent, we'll have to be paying and selling already, if we were to buy a preselling property.

So we said, we can only buy our own place if we can move immediately into it. We do away with the rent and start amortizing for our own home already."

The home they wanted

John wanted a new home situated at the heart of a commercial district, while Jade's dream abode was a place set in a picturesque location.



JOHN and Jade Amon

And they found something that would appease both their ideas for a great home. Ayala Land Inc.-managed Bonifacio Ridge condominium project, located at the promising Bonifacio Global City, was the answer to their home-searching queries.

John points out that Bonifacio Ridge made a great impression on him and his wife instantly: "When I first saw Bonifacio Ridge, I liked it right away. We actually looked around for condos. There were some that weren't really expensive, but they're old. We found a great place in Parañaque, but we didn't go with it because of the location. The turning point was when I found out when Bonifacio Ridge's delivery date would be. They also offered reasonable payment schemes. The fact that it's managed by Ayala Land is a plus as well. Those are among the important considerations."

They sealed the deal almost immediately, and are slated to move into their unit this November. The couple was able to avail of the unit type of their choice, and they appreciate how the 113-square-meter floor area has proven to be spacious, even with two helpers. The Amon family members are delighted with many of the included furnishings, such as air-conditioning units and high-quality maple kitchen cabinets.

A big plus

The inherent privacy and peacefulness of their residence is also a big plus. "It's relatively low density. It has 18 floors, unlike others that have at least 30 floors. There are only eight units per floor, so effectively, we would only be seeing three sets of neighbors," according to Jade.

Its location also will also enable them to spend quality time with their children, or to rush home in case of emergencies, adds John: "The priority at this time is to get home to the kids the quickest way that we can from work. We're both in advertising—the hours are so unpredictable. It's a big thing for me that I can go home in 15 to 20 minutes as opposed to two hours. It's only a bridge away."

Jade is also eagerly waiting for the opening of Bonifacio Global City's shopping center, Market! Market!. She is optimistic with the way things are developing at the rising business hub, and considers their new unit a very worthy investment. "It's our first real estate purchase. We wanted a secure investment, so we decided—it has to be an Ayala property," she explains.

John echoes his wife's trust in the country's leading real estate developer: "You can see how organized they are. As advertisers, we know when products are made to look good when they aren't really good. But with Ayala Land, from the way they start a project until they construct, finish and manage it, no other developer comes close. You actually don't have second thoughts about it."

Model units are available for viewing on-site at 1st Crescent Park West, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig, Metro Manila. For more information on Bonifacio Ridge, please call 848-5000, log on to www.ayalaland.com.ph, or e-mail ayala-sales@ayalaland.com.ph.

A fully computerized LRA to help GMA empower the country's poor

By Vicente B. Foz
Contributor

THE RECENT appointment of Peruvian Hernando de Soto, a renowned social science expert, as one of President Macapagal-Arroyo's economic advisers, is a significant step in the government's continuing effort to alleviate poverty and promote economic growth.

Known as the "poor man's capitalist," De Soto has been successful in carrying out economic reforms that empower the poor. His specific advocacy: granting the poor legal rights over lands they occupy so these can be used as collaterals to borrow from banks and other sources for investments in their own small businesses. The President herself had said her own program enabling the squatters to buy the public or government lands they occupy was really drawn from De Soto's idea.

Computerization project

The ongoing land title computerization project at the Land Registration Authority fully supports the present administration's direction to awaken the country's "dead capital" which De Soto estimates at P100 billion. "Dead capital" refers to pieces of real property occupied by poor families not covered by legal titles of ownership but which could be tapped to improve their lives.

LRA's information technology project for the land titling system is a vital government undertaking aimed at improving the present land registration and titling processes. The goal is not only to speed up land titling, but more important, to minimize or eliminate fraudulent land transactions.

LRA and private sector studies show that it is the poorer sector of society that suffers the consequences and bears the costs of a dysfunctional land administration system and the informal transactions associated with it. Such studies jibe with De Soto's idea that improving regulations and simplifying processes can unleash the power and capital of the poor.

Still committed to its mission

Over the years, LRA remains committed to its mission to preserve the stability and integrity of land ownership and maintain the public trust in the Torrens system. It remains firm in its fight against fake and fraudulent titling as it seeks amendments of the law to consider such offense as a heinous crime. It keeps trying to improve its facilities and make its services available to the transacting public, especially the clientele from remote municipalities.

Objectives

Realizing the importance of information technology to improve its operational efficiency, LRA has embarked on a computerization project. The twin objectives: speed up the delivery of services to the public, especially the poor, and eliminate graft and eradicate fraud in the registration and titling process.

What are the specific objectives of the computerization project? Fast and reliable land registration and titling through a nationwide online, real time processing of transactions. Automation of titling to ensure the integrity of titles, accurate land information, preservation of land records, integration of all LRA levels with the central office and all its registries of deeds. Access by other sectors to historical data and other knowledge bases for land titling and registration in various formats for decision-making.

Thus, the expected results are, first, current, complete and accurate information on land titles online and safeguarding of records against tampering and destruction. Another, a change from a paper-based to paperless system for tighter control over the titles. A modern digital technology to avoid overlapping or duplication of titles and create accurate, updated municipal and cadastral index map sheets. Moreover, the use of security-tested document imaging technology protects land titles from loss due to fire, theft, natural disasters and the normal ravages of time. Other government programs are directly linked to the land titling system. The LRA administrative support application systems is strengthened, thus enabling the agency to improve its revenue collection.

But more significantly, the poor stands to benefit the most from with the LRA's computerization project. It will reduce or eliminate red tape and bureaucratic practices that the poor do not have the means—money and time for information negotiations, even legal assistance—to put up with. Under a system that immediately detects fake land titles and pinpoints the persons perpetrating the criminal activities, the poor seeking legal rights for their property will be amply protected.

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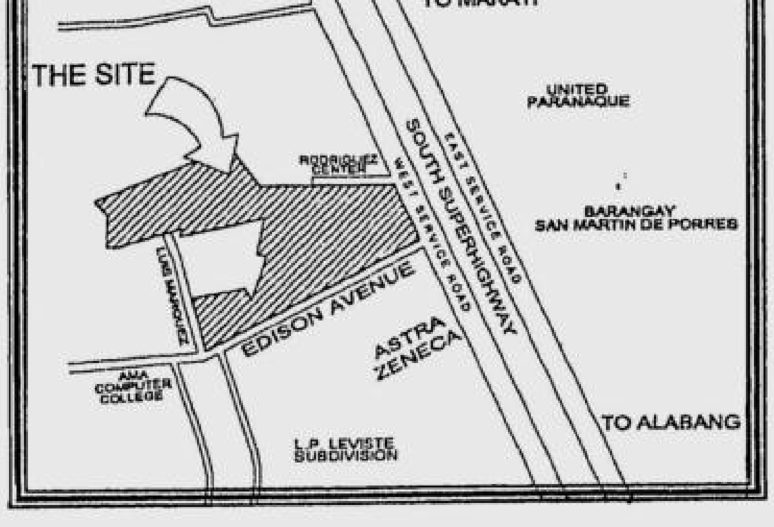
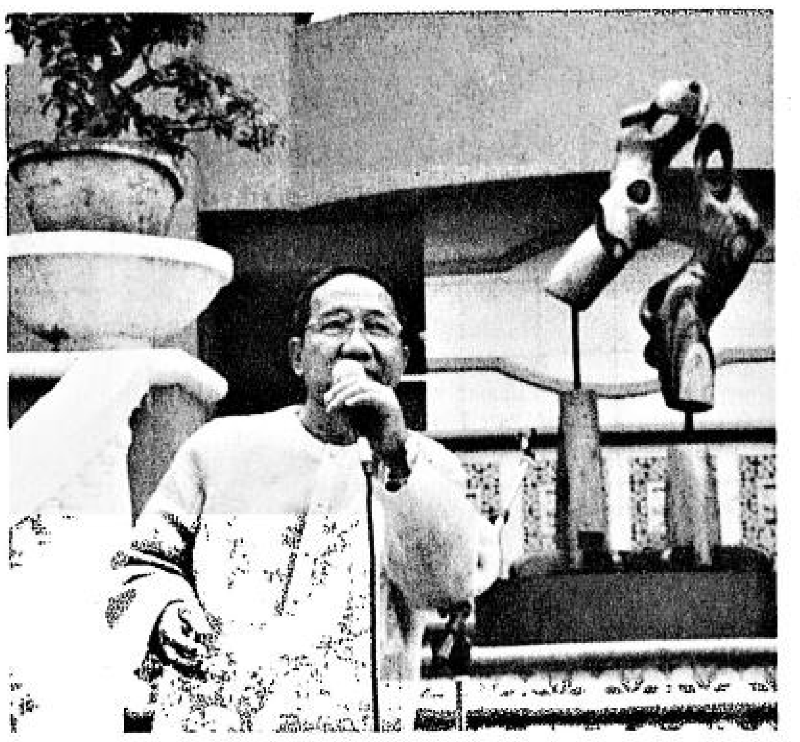


With greenery, property becomes 15% more valuable

BANSOYS "stand taller" than any commercial building

By Tessa R. Salazar



ARAOS

PLANTS and trees not only have something to do with the air you breathe, they also have a say over the value of your property.

A property with a beautiful garden will sell 15 percent higher than an equally sized property in the same subdivision or area. A landscaped real estate property is more expensive than a nonlandscaped, nongarden real estate property of the same land area and of the same architectural work.

Ask Jerusalino V. Araos, sculptor, teacher, gardener and now most sought-after by developers who want to offer more than just property but dwellings that would have positive effects on the environment. Araos knows the art and science of property too well that he can cite innumerable situations to demonstrate the power of its elements.

Araos, who is also a writer, recently developed a 3,500-squaremeter art garden named Kasalikasan (short for "Kasali ka sa Kalikasan") in cooperation with the Bonifacio Art Foundation at the Fort Bonifacio Global City. Soon, Kasalikasan will expand into two hectares or 20,000 sq m.

Araos says the presence of trees, by themselves, would have considerable impact on property values. A piece of property in a tree-laden road, he says, would be more expensive than another other piece of land in a road that does not have trees.

And the bigger and older the trees, the more valuable the land on which they stand becomes. "Buyers will choose subdivisions that have aging trees than those with newly sprouted trees," he predicts.

The commitment to propagate trees is spurred not just by art. As has become apparent by now, the presence of trees in a property are important for generations that would succeed in the property. And besides, Araos says, trees need all the help they can get, what with their already gargantuan task of filtering the cities' polluted air. "The pollution that a motor vehicle emits if it runs for 24 hours (picture a taxicab) cancels off the oxygen produced by 1,000 trees. [Right now], we're in trouble because we don't have enough trees to [manage pollution emitted by all motor vehicles.]"

Extreme measures

Araos fears that there would come a time Filipino society would have to resort to the extreme just to breathe in fresh air. He describes what he saw in Japan: a commercially available vending machine that, upon depositing a coin, a customer could avail himself of an oxygen mask for two minutes so he could breathe pure oxygen.

"My mission is for my grandson not find his own son walking in Metro Manila and dropping coins (in a vending machine) just to breathe oxygen."

Araos added that in Baguio's case, however, avoiding an environmental disaster may already be too late. "From 1962 to 1987, Baguio has lost two-thirds of its trees. In early 1995, Baguio registered 250,000 vehicles. The pollution level of Baguio City is 70 times above minimum tolerable levels."

He describes Baguio, like Tibet, a soup bowl of smog because it generated pollutants that stayed within its mountain ranges.

"(Pollution in) Manila is not as bad because the convection currents from the Sierra Madre and Montalban mountains come in to sweep away the smog out into the South China Sea."

On the other hand, every morning, convection currents also bring in fresh air from the South China Sea into Metro Manila.

'Bansoy' in Eastwood

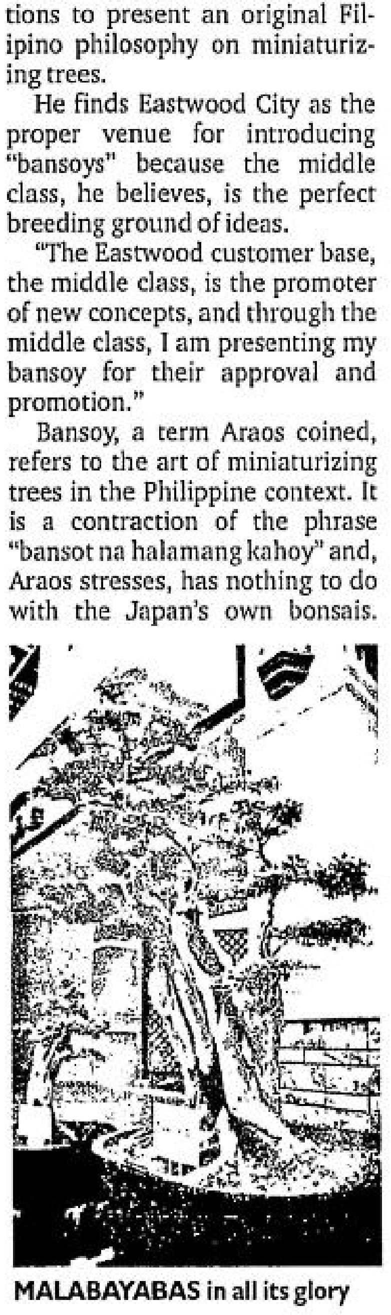
Araos has recently agreed to set up a garden of "bansoys" in Eastwood City in Libis, Pasig. In line with Eastwood City's new socio-corporate strategy to put in some "life" in its sprawling 15-hectare property, Araos and his "bansoys" have become essential parts of the self-contained lifestyle and business hub. The bansoys offer the "garden effect" for the soon-to-rise limited-space condominiums Eastwood requires to have existent portable gardens.

Not content to just giving garden life to Eastwood, Araos says he put art in as well. Araos stresses that he is rising above imitations to present an original Filipino philosophy on miniaturizing trees.

He finds Eastwood City as the proper venue for introducing "bansoys" because the middle class, he believes, is the perfect breeding ground of ideas.

"The Eastwood customer base, the middle class, is the promoter of new concepts, and through the middle class, I am presenting my bansoy for their approval and promotion."

Bansoy, a term Araos coined, refers to the art of miniaturizing trees in the Philippine context. It is a contraction of the phrase "bansot na halamang kahoy" and, Araos stresses, has nothing to do with the Japan's own bonsais.



MALABAYABAS in all its glory

Bansoys are Philippine tree species planted on a deep pot. Bonsais, on the other hand, are planted on shallow pots. Unlike bonsai, which offers as its best viewing angle the front view, bansoy can be appreciated from all perspectives.

Another big difference between bonsais and bansoys is the direction of their branches. Bonsai branches have to drag downward to imitate full-size trees growing in Japan. Why do Japanese tree branches drag downward? Araos replies that winter, and the snowfall, forces branches to grow downward. Thus, to enable bonsai branches to also grow downward, growers tie or wire them down.

Bansoy branches, on the other hand, grow exuberantly and are never tied down—and that, Araos explains, is a totally homegrown plant philosophy. Its colors are also bright.

RP entry

"I am profounding Bansoy as the Philippine entry into the international scene of miniature trees. In China, miniature trees are called Benging. In Japan they are called Bonsai and in Korea they are called Bunjai. Other countries have their own terms for their miniature trees but sadly in the Philippines, practitioners are MSMD (monkey see monkey do)."

In effect, Eastwood City serves as the socio-corporate model of the bansoy philosophy. The Eastwood City concept of a self-contained satellite city can also parallel bansoy's concept of Philippine culture contained in Araos' bansoy.

"The (bansoy as a defining Filipino symbol) is important. Why? Many developers would develop their villages and subdivisions on Spanish, German and Swiss concepts. Now this is our concept," Araos explained.

"So far, Eastwood has shown an international style in its architecture and this can still be a blank tablet for expressing Philippine culture," he adds.

Putting in the diminutive bansoy in a modern commercial-residential setup, however, isn't that easy. "It is a challenge for me to put bansoy living sculptures in the foreground of a designed garden." For bansoys to stand out, Araos enriched their colors and the presentation as a sculpture had to be clearly defined, or else it would be drowned by the largeness of previously planted trees.

Mission

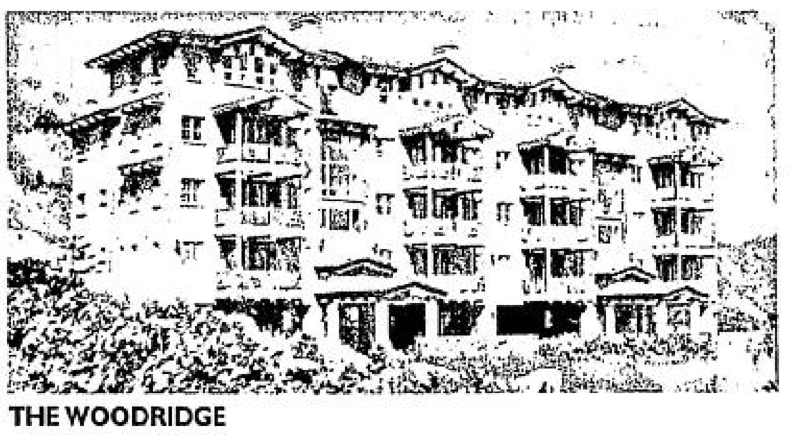
With his bansoy, Araos is well on track in his ecological and linguistic mission. Bansoys are not the end products in an ecologically sound society, he insists. Ecological success still lies with the original big trees thriving all over the country. It's just that big things, like trees, can come in small packages, like bansoys. And when you have to lug an ecological statement around like a tree, it is infinitely more convenient to carry around a miniature instead of the big one.

The linguistic mission is to reunite the ghost word to the body so it becomes body and soul. It becomes the soul in the national language. And we enrich the national language.

How many of you know bagtikan as a tree? Kalumpit? Cabuyao? Cabuyao is a Philippine lemon and kalumpit is a Philippine cherry.

And before the tree itself becomes a ghost word, here comes Araos lugging with him a bansoy—a small tree arousing overflowing life and meaning.

Mountainside condos rise in Tagaytay Highlands



THE WOODRIDGE

COMBINING the beauty of araal stone and New Zealand pine, the Woodridge at Tagaytay Highlands, owned and developed by Highlands Prime Inc., presents luxury mountain condominiums in one of the highest elevations of the exclusive mountain resort community. Rising on a ridge overlooking the Woodlands, these multilevel homes offer a spectacular view of the world-class Highlands golf course, Mt. Makiling, and Laguna de Bay.

The Woodridge consists of 7 buildings with 138 two- and three-bedroom condominium units that offer the comforts of home and the feeling of living in your very own mountainside chalet. Nestled in a five-hectare sloping ridge, all units come semi furnished; fully airconditioned, with timber-finished floors, pinewood trimmings on the ceiling, carpeted bedroom floors, and with pinewood baseboards. The kitchen is equipped with a cooking range and oven, range hood, refrigerator and a complete cabinet system.

The developer, Highlands Prime provided cable TV and telephone outlets, built-in hot water system, emergency backup power supply and uninterrupted water supply. Each unit has two covered-parking slots at the ground floor of the building, and an elevator exclusively servicing six units. The condominium dwellings range in size from 111 to 183 square meters of livable space.

Architect Bong Recio of Recio+Casas Architects, who designed The Woodridge complex shares that the unique setting and location dictated the choice of the mountain-type architecture as the project design inspiration. This is evidenced by the abundance of exposed woods and the liberal use of earth-toned colors all throughout the seven buildings. Even the names of the seven clusters are evocative of American parks or upland flora: Yosemite, Mesa Verde, Shenandoah, Mt. Rainier, Sequoia, Acadia and Yellowstone.

Seen from a distance, the seven buildings of The Woodridge actually enhance the allure and appeal of the mountain slopes, blending seamlessly into the surrounding terrain. With its prime upslope location, it offers a more secluded and private atmosphere away from the hustle and bustle of the busy metropolis.

Different colors of the slate roof were part of the overall design. This was done primarily to break the monotony of the subdued earthen color palette. It not only makes for easier identification, it also adds an element of surprise in an otherwise very calm and peaceful setting. Even the site development plan had to be carefully studied and specially designed so as not to cause any damage to the pristine mountain location.

"Woodridge turned out to exactly as we had envisioned it to be," Recio proudly adds. Notwithstanding the strict environmental issues they had to contend with, everything paid off in the end. Beaming with pride, he remembers receiving numerous calls from friends, who have seen The Woodridge, and indicated their desire to buy their very own private mountain chalet.

Highlands Prime Inc., a publicly listed property development company and majority owned by the SM Group, projects revenues of P1.4 billion from The Woodridge alone. Its upcoming projects include a mid-rise residential condominium facing Taal Lake at the Tagaytay Midlands complex and single-detached and medium-density residential units at Tagaytay Highlands.

CPAC Monier named best concrete roof tile for 2003

MARKET leader CPAC Monier concrete roof tiles further boosted its dominance of the competition when it was named the best concrete roof tile for 2003 during the 1st National Shoppers' Choice Awards held recently at the Dusit Hotel Nikko in Makati.

The award, which was based on the votes of readers of Shoppers' Magazine, cited CPAC Monier concrete roof tiles' consistent high quality and performance, as well as the increasing market awareness about the product gained through sustained marketing campaigns.

CPAC Monier concrete roof tiles won in the national category competition. The other contest categories are for Metro Manila, Luzon and Visayas-Mindanao.

CPAC Monier concrete roof tiles are produced locally by CPAC Monier Philippines Inc., a joint venture between world leader Lafarge of France and the Siam Cement Group of Thailand.

Architect Arnel Nacor, CMPI sales and marketing manager, said the award reinforced CPAC Monier's already dominant market presence and is proof of the increasing awareness of consumers about the advantages of concrete roof tiles over other traditional roofing materials.

Urban Institute holds seminar

THE URBAN Institute of Real Estate will hold a seminar for new and existing real estate brokers titled Real Estate Finance and Investment Analysis on Aug. 6 at the Asian Institute of Management Conference Center.

The Urban Institute is also conducting other seminars: Aug. 2—Investing in Real Estate: Opportunities, Techniques and What to Learn; Aug. 3—Property Development and HLURB Rules; Aug . 5—Property Management and Real Estate Appraisal; and Aug. 7—Joint Ventures for Real Estate Projects.

For inquiries, call 681-0928 or at e-mail urbanet@pacific.net.ph.

Stately trees assured of survival for many more years

MATURE and stately trees that have witnessed eras come and go as well as their own amazing survival in this part of Quezon City have been assured of their existence for the next generation.

Ayala Land assistant vice president Thomas Mirasol expressed confidence that the age-old trees within Ayala Hillside Estates in Diliman would continue to thrive. The residential subdivision's full-grown trees have crowns that spread up to 10 meters across. These trees were once part of the fairways of the Capitol Hills Golf and Country Club.

Retaining the stately trees

When Ayala Land Inc. transformed a portion of the golf course into a residential subdivision in 2002, its planners decided that all efforts should be exerted to retain the stately trees. "As a rule, we made an effort to maintain the trees where they were," says Mirasol. "Only when safety or ability to survive became an issue were certain trees relocated."

In these instances, affected trees were relocated with great care. The root system of each tree was dug out together with a sizable amount of the original soil so that it could be transplanted unharmed. The tree was then brought to a more ideal site with the help of specialized equipment.

The relocated trees now add grace to the roadways of the 22-hectare development in this part of Quezon City which has successfully defied congestion. It is a few minutes drive from top universities. While development in surrounding areas has ushered in malls, more buildings and other conveniences, tranquility continues to reign in this exclusive residential enclave.

A haven for trees

Mirasol observes that the site of each Ayala Land subdivision, its natural environment and other defining characteristics that assure quality are maintained through the years largely by a set of rules. These are called Deed Restrictions and lot owners are obliged to observe these rules.

Says Mirasol: "Ayala Hillside Estates' Deed Restrictions ensure that the place will remain a haven for decades—for the residents as well as the trees."

MATURE and stately trees have been assured of their survival in this idyllic portion of Quezon City.

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MONDAY ARTS ● TUESDAY FITNESS ● WEDNESDAY 2BU ● THURSDAY FOOD ● FRIDAY HOME & FASHION ● SUNDAY SURPRISES

Healthful convergence of two traditions

By Linda B. Bolido

TRADITION and practice are not the only reasons Oriental medicine has endured for centuries. For one of them at least, Western tests appear to have established that there are scientific bases for its continued use not just habit or sentimental reasons.

Dr. Zhu Jia-Shi, senior director, clinical and pharmacological unit, Pharmanex, was in town recently to launch formally ReishiMax GLp, a formulation extracted from red mushroom designed to give a long-term boost to the immune system. The product aims to help maintain the health of the body's immune system and to stimulate the production of defensive immune cells. Pharmanex is a division of the Utah-based Nu Skin Enterprises Company, a network marketing enterprise that distributes and sells personal care, nutritional and other related products.

Dr. Zhu, in introducing ReishiMax GLp, discussed primarily its potential for protecting the liver. He said it also helped in the management of diabetes by increasing a person's insulin sensitivity to effect a reduction of the fasting blood glucose. (Diabetes, a problem related to the body's inability to process sugar thoroughly and completely, is characterized by a high blood glucose even if a person has "fasted" or not had a meal for several hours).

Reishi or red mushroom, a woody variety found primarily in the wild, had reportedly been used in China for centuries, valued for its perceived "powers" to enhance longevity and increase vigor and vitality. Despite a long tradition of use, these powers had not been harnessed to the full because of limited supply and the way the mushroom was utilized in the past. Basically, Dr. Zhu said, fresh reishi was used and its components "harvested" by using it as an ingredient in cooking or by putting it in teabags. "The question is how well the useful properties were extracted and made available to the body," the scientist said. Another big question for the company, he added, was how to ensure quality of production.

Value is established

Dr. Zhu said, in China, so many books existed on traditional medicine and the properties of various cures, including herbs. So, in the case of reishi, there was enough literature to establish its value. It was only a matter of utilizing the plant's full potential and ensuring quality and consistency of formulation. Pharmanex, he said, set up its own reishi production to ensure the sustainability and quality of supply. Mushrooms were grown in a pollution-free controlled environment without the use of pesticides.

The company also adopted the "cracking technology" in preparing the reishi formulation. Dr. Zhu said the technology was very important because it freed the (mushroom's healthful) active components and made them more readily available for use by the body. At the same time, the company applied Western quality standard tests to assess traditional production methods.

Initially, there was some resistance to moves by Pharmanex, which has a production unit in China, that "tampered" with tradition but eventually, Dr. Zhu said, the wisdom of the new system was recognized.

Although the scientist talked primarily about how Reishi boosted the immune system and helped in diabetes management, he mentioned studies in the United States that suggested the mushroom, as a dietary supplement, had other potential uses. A study undertaken by a team headed by Veronica Slivova of the Cancer Research Laboratory of the Methodist Research Institute, which was published in the Winter 2004 issue of the "Journal of Cancer Integrative Medicine," showed that *Ganoderma lucidum*, reishi's scientific name, "may contribute to reducing invasion and metastasis (spread) of breast cancers by inhibiting cancer cell adhesion, cell migration, cell invasion and growth of cancer cells."

Differing potency

Findings of another study by a research team headed by Daniel Sliva, PhD, of the Department of Medicine, School of Medicine, Indiana University (Indianapolis) had parallel findings. But the study, published in a 2003 issue of "The Journal of Alternative and Complementary Medicine," stressed the need to test the potency of every reishi formulation available in the market because methods of extraction and/or certain chemical additives could affect the efficacy of a supplement. It suggested that the difference in potency could be "the result of variation in the concentration of the active ingredients."

Apparently, the scientific studies had helped strengthen ReishiMax GLp's claim that, according to Dr. Zhu, it was now the first or second best-selling red mushroom formulation in countries where it was available. The product was introduced into the market in 2002.

ReishiMax GLp comes in bottles of 60 capsules and retails for P5,500. For health maintenance, one or two capsules of the dietary supplement should be taken with liquid at morning and evening meals. Those wanting to give a lot of boost to their immune system should take two capsules twice daily.

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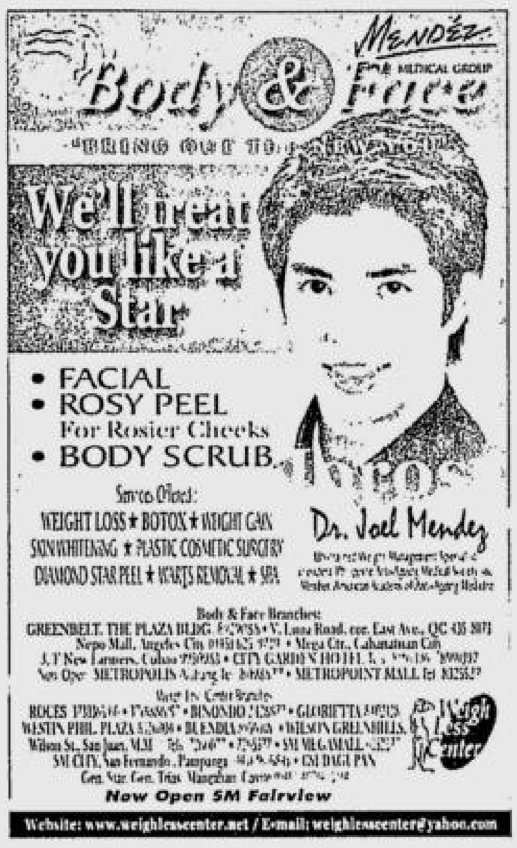
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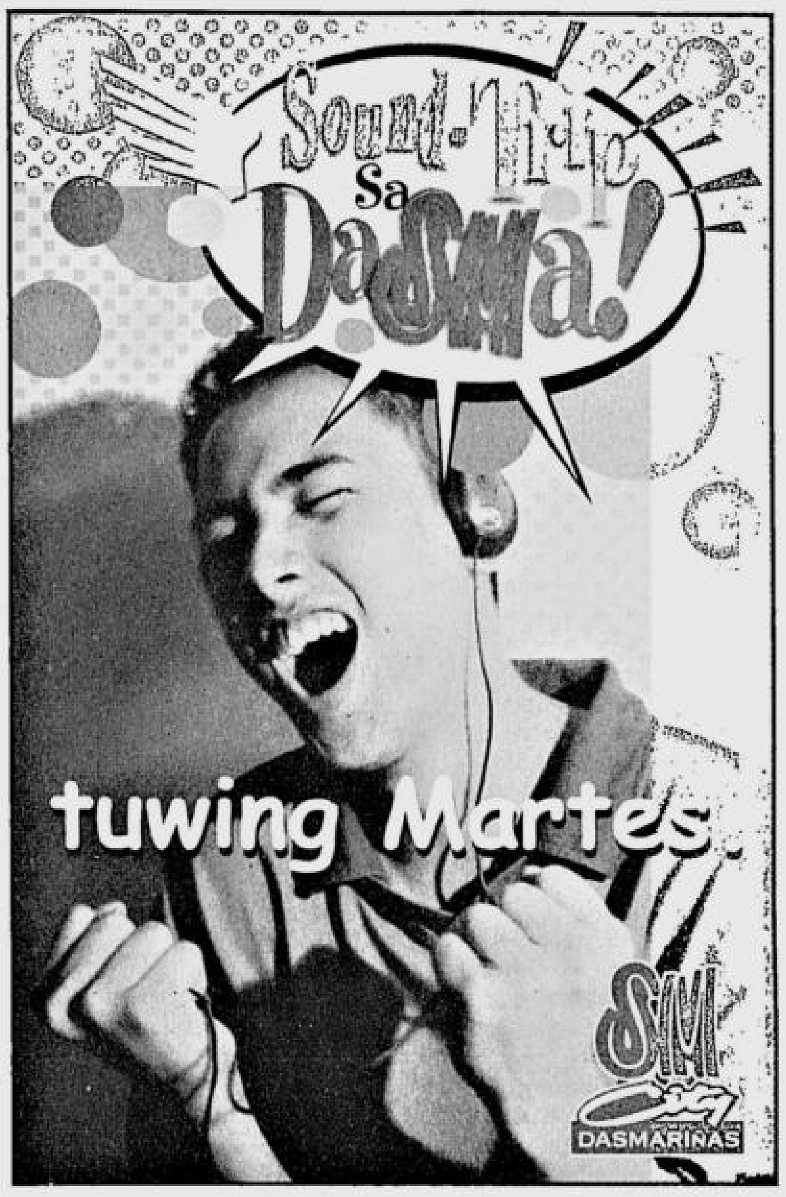

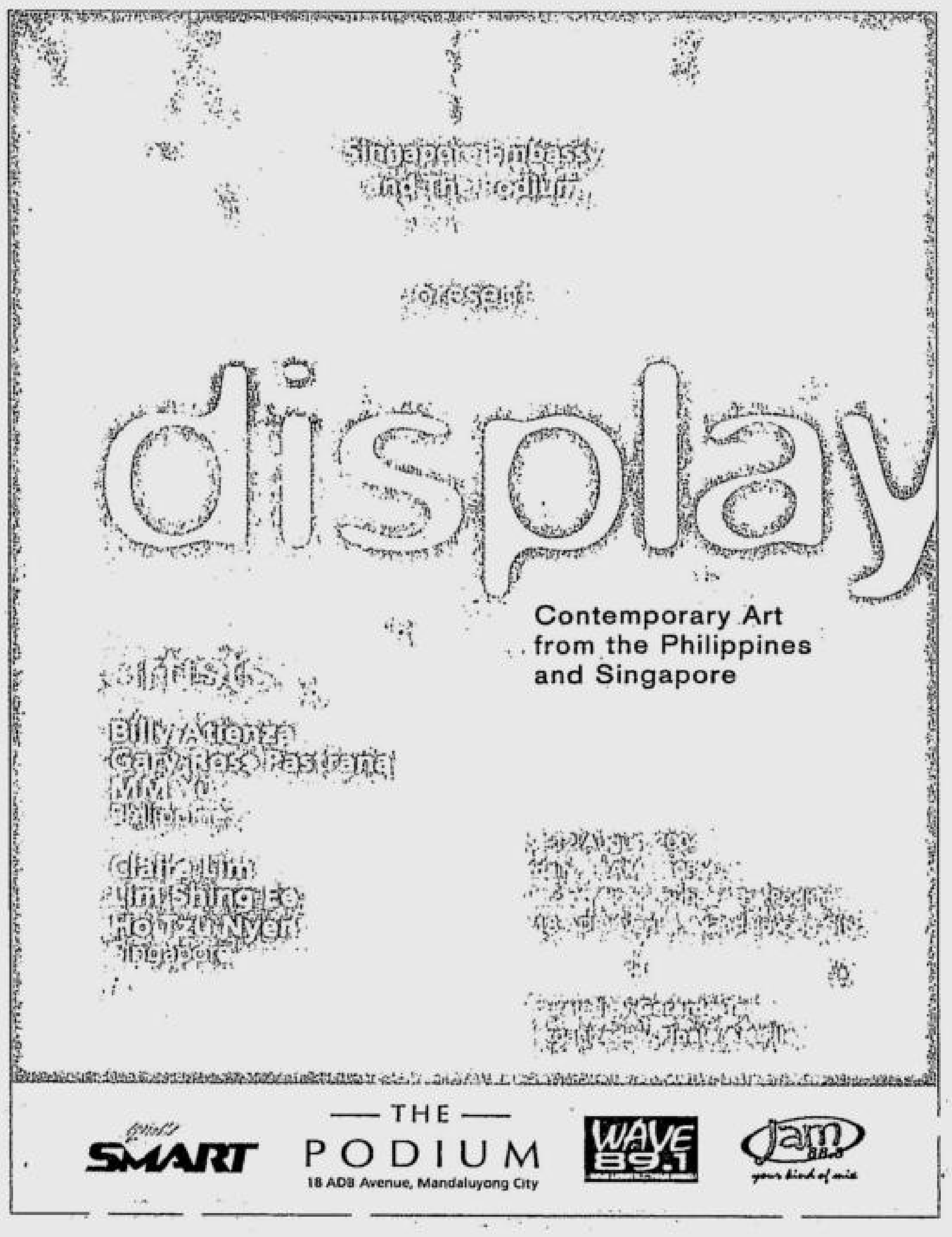
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Take Charge Doc!

Dr. Nicky S. Montoya

Take Charge Doc! is your weekly question and answer guide on general health issues and illnesses. MEDICard's Medical Director, Dr. Nicky Montoya answers questions on health through the assistance and expertise of MEDICard's network of accredited specialists. And in a common thrust with the campaigns of the government, Take Charge Doc! parallels its features on the Calendar of Health Events of the Department of Health.

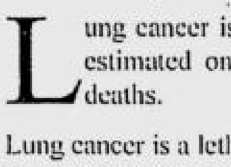
What is lung cancer? What causes it and am I at risk of acquiring the illness even if I am not a smoker?

Lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer death in the whole world. In 1990, there were an estimated one million cases of lung cancer worldwide and almost a million lung cancer deaths.

Lung cancer is a lethal disease with the same incidence and mortality rate, meaning that patients who develop lung cancer die of it. Five year survival is less than 10% in most parts of the world.

Lung cancer is not caused by smoking alone. Aside from cigarette and tobacco smoking, which accounts for about 90% of all lung cancer cases worldwide, other known causes of the disease are (1) environmental factors-exposure to tobacco smoke, radon, various occupational hazards (2) diet and (3) pre-existing non-malignant lung disease. Tobacco smoke contains more than 50 known carcinogens. Their active metabolites can bind to DNA and cause mutation implicated in lung cancer by carcinogens. Radon, a radioactive gas released from the decay of uranium, exists in soil and rocks. This can diffuse through the ground and become concentrated in homes. Examples of occupational carcinogens are Asbestos, Chromium, Nickel and its compounds and Vinyl Chloride used in the manufacture of various products. Pre-existing non-malignant lung diseases such as Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease, Pneumonia, Tuberculosis are also known cancer risks.

On the lighter side, several studies have shown that the daily intake of fruits and vegetables can reduce the risk for lung cancer.



Pulmonologist **Dr. Aura Yap-Quinsay** gives us her insights on lung cancer. Dr. Quinsay, a MEDICard accredited specialist for over three years now, finished her degree in Medicine at UERM-MMC. She later took residency training specializing in Internal Medicine at World Citi Medical Center, the former QCMC followed by a subspecialty training in Pulmonology at the Lung Center of the Philippines. This mother of four enjoys her hobbies of gardening and exercise through brisk walking when her time permits. Visit Dr. Aura Quinsay for your consultation needs at her clinic, Room 219 of the World Citi Medical Center in Aurora Blvd., Quezon City. Her clinic hours are every Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 1 to 5 PM and every Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays from 9 AM to 5 in the afternoon.

BE HEARD AND BE READ. Write to DR. NICKY S. MONTOYA (c/o *TAKE CHARGE DOC!*) or e-mail him at inquiry@medicardphils.com for inquiries on health matters.

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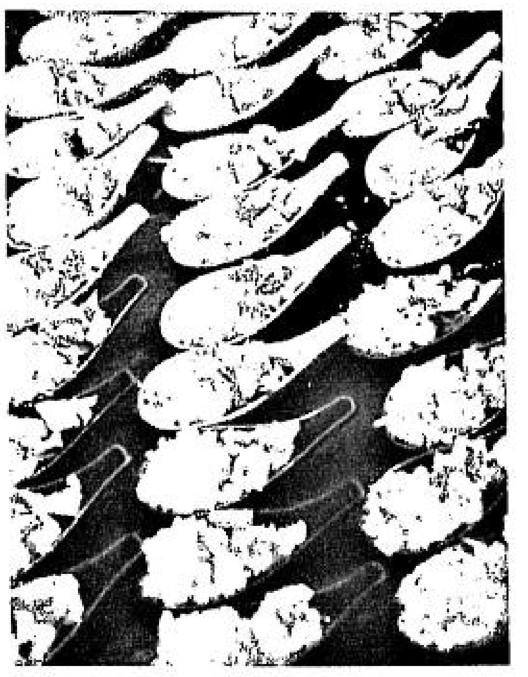
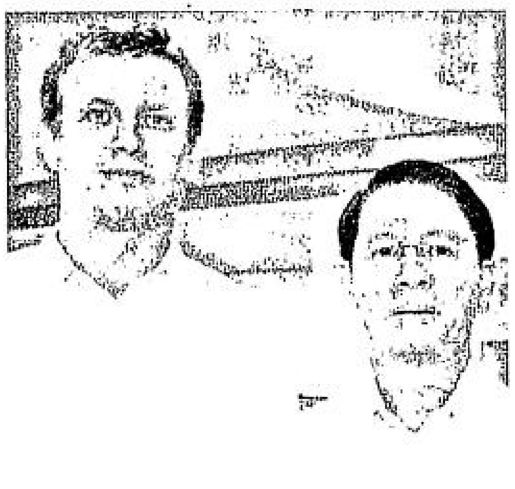


RICE with chicken bits served at the opening of "Rice Feeds the World" exhibit at Glorietta



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Photos by **Alex Van Hagen** on **Kodak Max**

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HAVING a great time partying. Beng Tesoro and Ramon Arnaiz

MICHEL and Amparito Lhuillier

THE HOSTS of the Moroccan affair, Cocoy and Tammy Cordoba, with daughter Mimay, stand beside the cake, which is a replica of their Fuego home.

THE MEGA F&B manager of the popular, beautifully renovated Taal Vista Hotel, *simpatico* Alfredo Roca

LIZ Cowper and Fr. Tito Caluag, S.J.

New Age mother can't decide on religion for her kids

INNER AWARENESS

Jaime T. Licauco

I RECEIVED a letter from Norma (not her real name), a 41-year-old mother of four children who could not decide in what religion to raise her kids, since she had embraced "more enlightened New Age concepts."

Norma was raised by a very strict Catholic father who became "a lay minister but was weak (when faced with) temptation." She said her father "hid his moral weakness through a façade of (holiness) and by being a religious freak." The hypocrisy made her lose her trust and respect for her father in her adolescent years and also her faith in the Catholic Church.

"It was only after he died," she said, "that I forgave him and accepted who he really was. I realized he touched the lives of many people and healed them in the process."

She has read books on reincarnation and the "Conversations with God" books of Neale Donald Walsh and found them very enlightening. She believed what "God" was saying in those books.

Raised as Catholics

Her dilemma now is this: "Now that I have embraced this kind of 'enlightened religion,' what do I teach my children? I have four kids, aged 16, 13, 8 and 5. I am raising them as Catholics like my parents. Three of my siblings (we are 12) joined the Born-Again Christians several years ago. Would it be selfish of me to teach them (kids) my religion? Or should I just let them believe in a punishing God? And about Jesus Christ who 'saved' us?

"My kids are happy being Catholics and they follow tradition. But the older ones are already asking questions which I could not sanely answer. I am utterly confused! I admit I'm just at the infantile stage of being conscious of my 'higher awareness' or 'higher being' and might be being misled by all these so-called 'New Age religion.' I am afraid to let them know my beliefs because of what they might think.

"I am surrounded by people who are deeply Catholic. Even in my office, 95 percent are members of Ligaya, a Catholic organization, and they talk a lot about it and outwardly practice their faith. (They sometimes get very judgmental) when I dare speak up about my own belief. It's frustrating and confusing.

"So what can you say about my predicament? Can you help me? I know you've enlightened a lot of people who have called you master. Please help me!"

Greater master

Thank you, Norma, for your kind words and for your confidence in this writer. At the outset, let me make some important clarifications. I am not a master and do not wish to be called one. I firmly believe the real master is within each of us. There is no greater master than yourself.

This so-called New Age is not a religion but merely a new way of looking at life and the universe, a new point of view. One can be a member of any religion and still embrace New Age ideas. See my new book "On Christianity, New Age and Reincarnation" for a clear explanation of what New Age is really about.

Normally, I don't want to talk about religion because I believe it is an individual and personal thing. I also believe all religions are good and there's no point in converting a person to another religion. It is just like jumping from one box to another although each priest or member of one box believes his box is better than the others. And each is willing to fight to the death to prove it.

To me it does not matter much which religion you adopt or to raise your children in. If you are a Catholic, be a good Catholic; if a Hindu or Muslim be a good Hindu or Muslim.

No true or false religion

I do not believe one religion is true and others false. Who are we to judge this? When the psychic Edgar Cayce was asked in a trance which version of the Bible was best, his reply was: "The one that you live." I think that's an excellent answer.

Members of any religion do not all live or practice what their religion teaches. We are all guilty of this. What we desperately need in this country is greater tolerance for religious beliefs that may be different from our own.

If your children are happy with their Catholic faith, let them be. There is no point in disturbing their belief. But when they start questioning their religion, that's the time to explain how you view things, without forcing them to embrace your point of view.

Will this not confuse them? Not necessarily. It depends on how you handle their questions. You will be surprised how smart this younger generation is. They are truly Aquarian Age children.

As for your officemates and friends, there are three subjects you should never discuss: religion, politics and sex!

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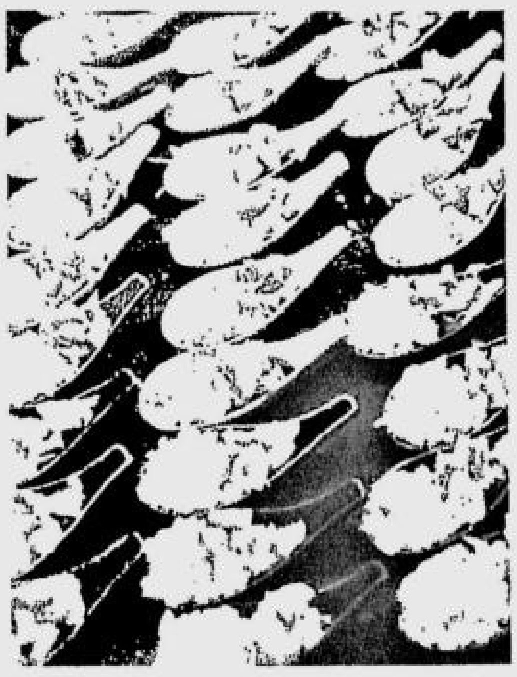

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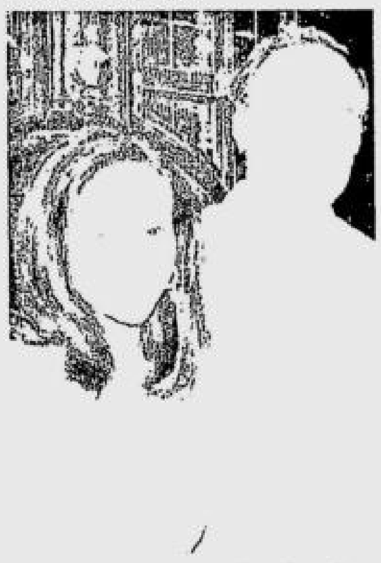

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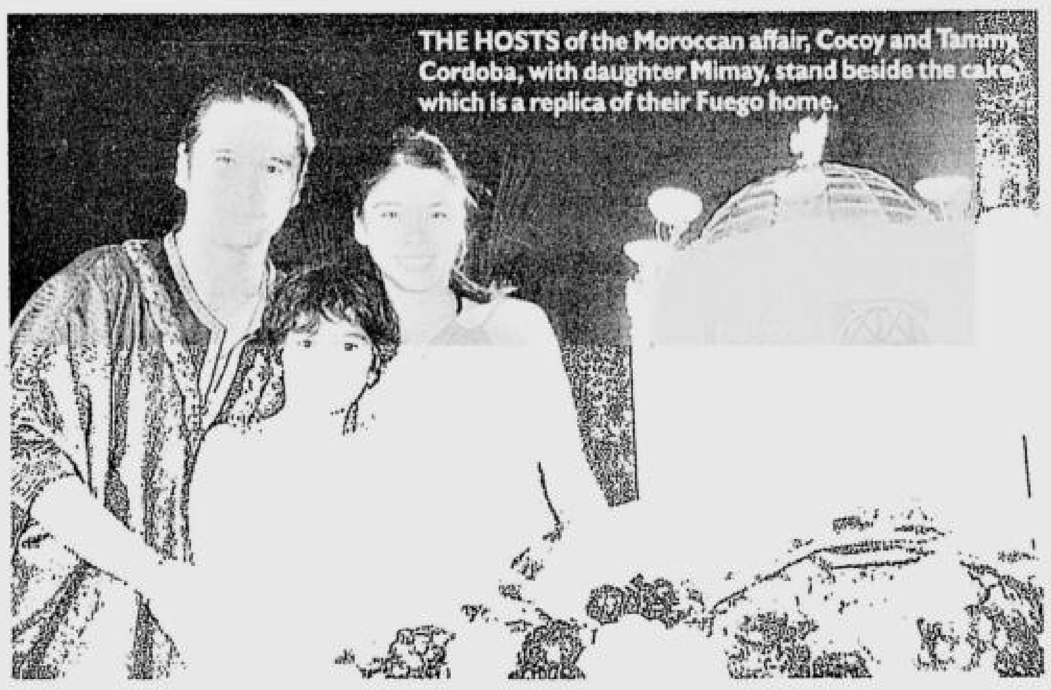
HAVING a great time partying. Beng Tesoro and Ramon Arnaiz

MICHEL and Amparito Lhuillier



THE HOSTS of the Moroccan affair, Cocoy and Tammy Cordoba, with daughter Mimay, stand beside the cake which is a replica of their Fuego home.

THE MEGA F&B manager of the popular, beautifully renovated Taal Vista Hotel, *simpatico* Alfredo Roca

LIZ Cowper and Fr. Tito Caluag, S.J.

New Age mother can't decide on religion for her kids

INNER AWARENESS

Jaime T. Licauco

I RECEIVED a letter from Norma (not her real name), a 41-year-old mother of four children who could not decide in what religion to raise her kids, since she had embraced "more enlightened New Age concepts."

Norma was raised by a very strict Catholic father who became "a lay minister but was weak (when faced with) temptation." She said her father "hid his moral weakness through a façade of (holiness) and by being a religious freak." The hypocrisy made her lose her trust and respect for her father in her adolescent years and also her faith in the Catholic Church.

"It was only after he died," she said, "that I forgave him and accepted who he really was. I realized he touched the lives of many people and healed them in the process."

She has read books on reincarnation and the "Conversations with God" books of Neale Donald Walsh and found them very enlightening. She believed what "God" was saying in those books.

Raised as Catholics

Her dilemma now is this: "Now that I have embraced this kind of 'enlightened religion,' what do I teach my children? I have four kids, aged 16, 13, 8 and 5. I am raising them as Catholics like my parents. Three of my siblings (we are 12) joined the Born-Again Christians several years ago. Would it be selfish of me to teach them (kids) my religion? Or should I just let them believe in a punishing God? And about Jesus Christ who 'saved' us?

"My kids are happy being Catholics and they follow tradition. But the older ones are already asking questions which I could not sanely answer. I am utterly confused! I admit I'm just at the infantile stage of being conscious of my 'higher awareness' or 'higher being' and might be being misled by all these so-called 'New Age religion.' I am afraid to let them know my beliefs because of what they might think.

"I am surrounded by people who are deeply Catholic. Even in my office, 95 percent are members of Ligaya, a Catholic organization, and they talk a lot about it and outwardly practice their faith. (They sometimes get very judgmental) when I dare speak up about my own belief. It's frustrating and confusing.

"So what can you say about my predicament? Can you help me? I know you've enlightened a lot of people who have called you master. Please help me!"

Greater master

Thank you, Norma, for your kind words and for your confidence in this writer. At the outset, let me make some important clarifications. I am not a master and do not wish to be called one. I firmly believe the real master is within each of us. There is no greater master than yourself.

This so-called New Age is not a religion but merely a new way of looking at life and the universe, a new point of view. One can be a member of any religion and still embrace New Age ideas. See my new book "On Christianity, New Age and Reincarnation" for a clear explanation of what New Age is really about.

Normally, I don't want to talk about religion because I believe it is an individual and personal thing. I also believe all religions are good and there's no point in converting a person to another religion. It is just like jumping from one box to another although each priest or member of one box believes his box is better than the others. And each is willing to fight to the death to prove it.

To me it does not matter much which religion you adopt or to raise your children in. If you are a Catholic, be a good Catholic; if a Hindu or Muslim be a good Hindu or Muslim.

No true or false religion

I do not believe one religion is true and others false. Who are we to judge this? When the psychic Edgar Cayce was asked in a trance which version of the Bible was best, his reply was: "The one that you live." I think that's an excellent answer.

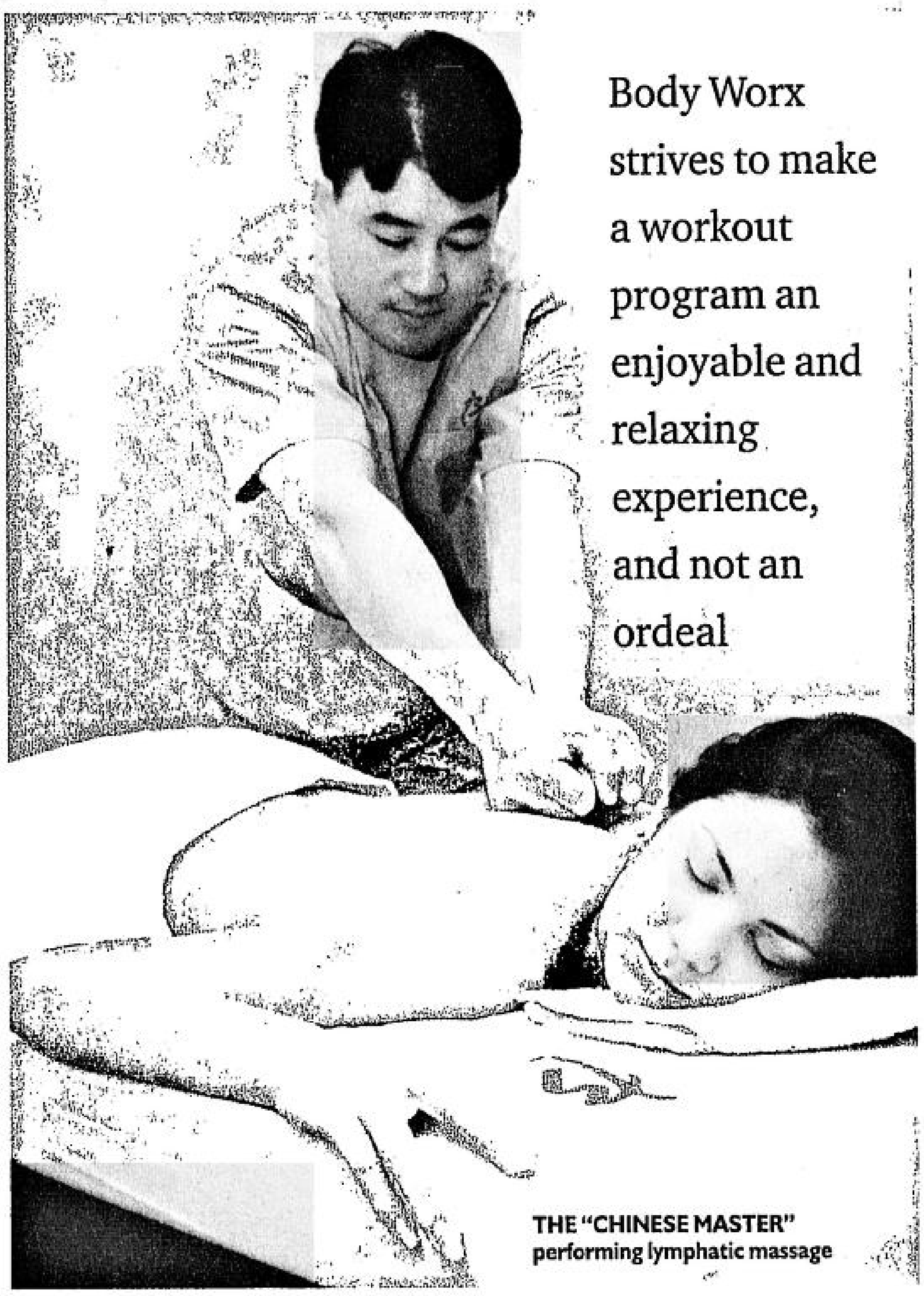
Members of any religion do not all live or practice what their religion teaches. We are all guilty of this. What we desperately need in this country is greater tolerance for religious beliefs that may be different from our own.

If your children are happy with their Catholic faith, let them be. There is no point in disturbing their belief. But when they start questioning their religion, that's the time to explain how you view things, without forcing them to embrace your point of view.

Will this not confuse them? Not necessarily. It depends on how you handle their questions. You will be surprised how smart this younger generation is. They are truly Aquarian Age children.

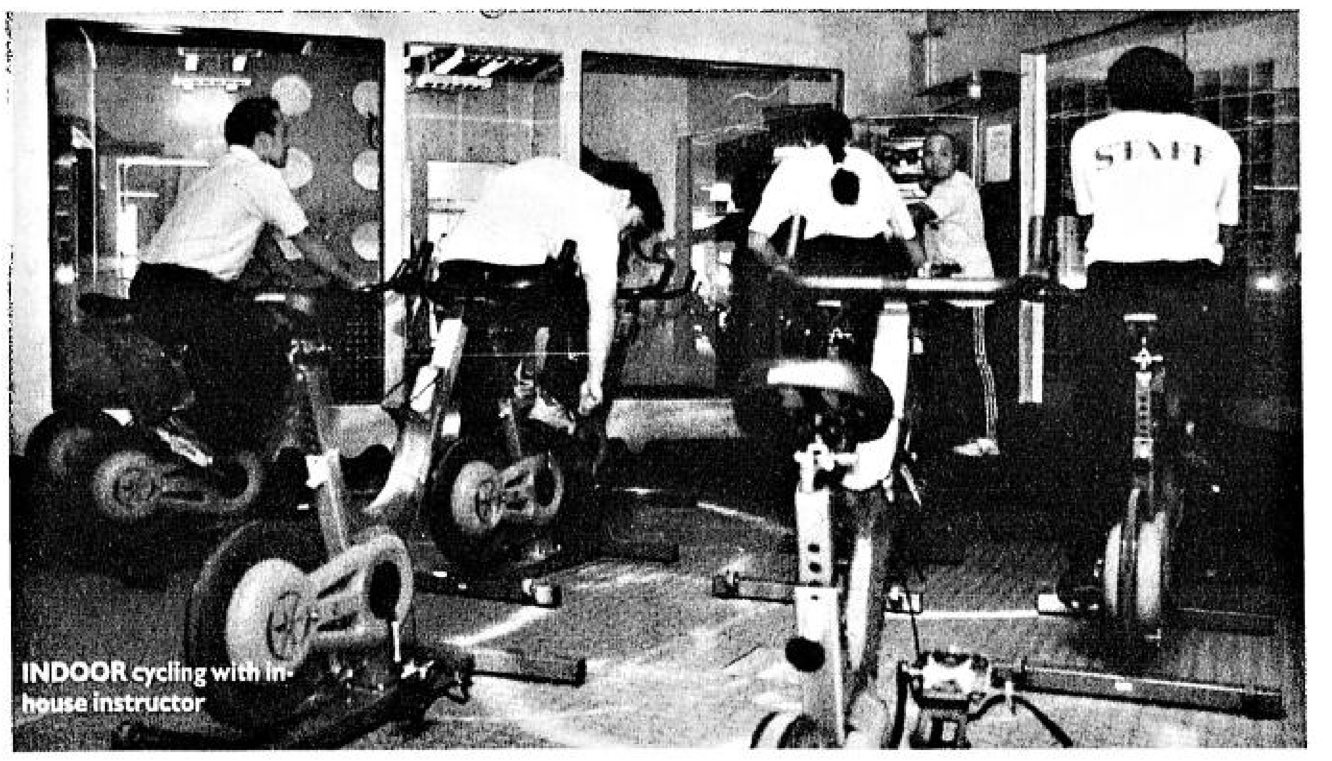
As for your officemates and friends, there are three subjects you should never discuss: religion, politics and sex!

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

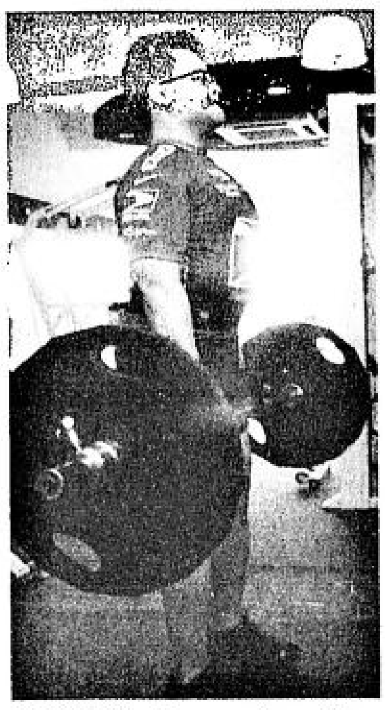


Body Worx strives to make a workout program an enjoyable and relaxing experience, and not an ordeal

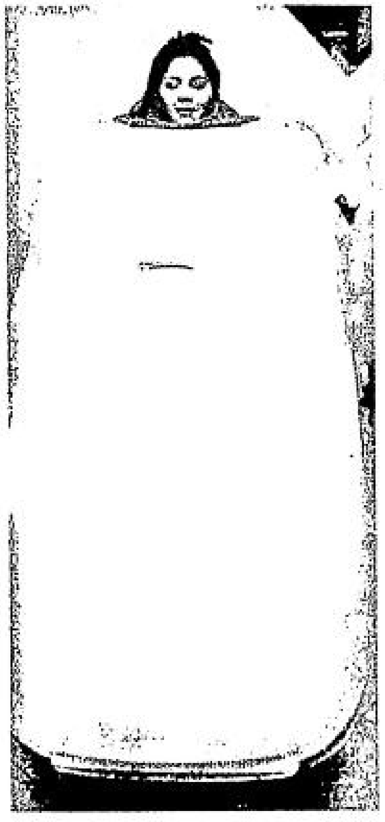
THE "CHINESE MASTER" performing lymphatic massage



INDOOR cycling with in-house instructor



MUSCLE-toning exercises with the aid of gym equipment

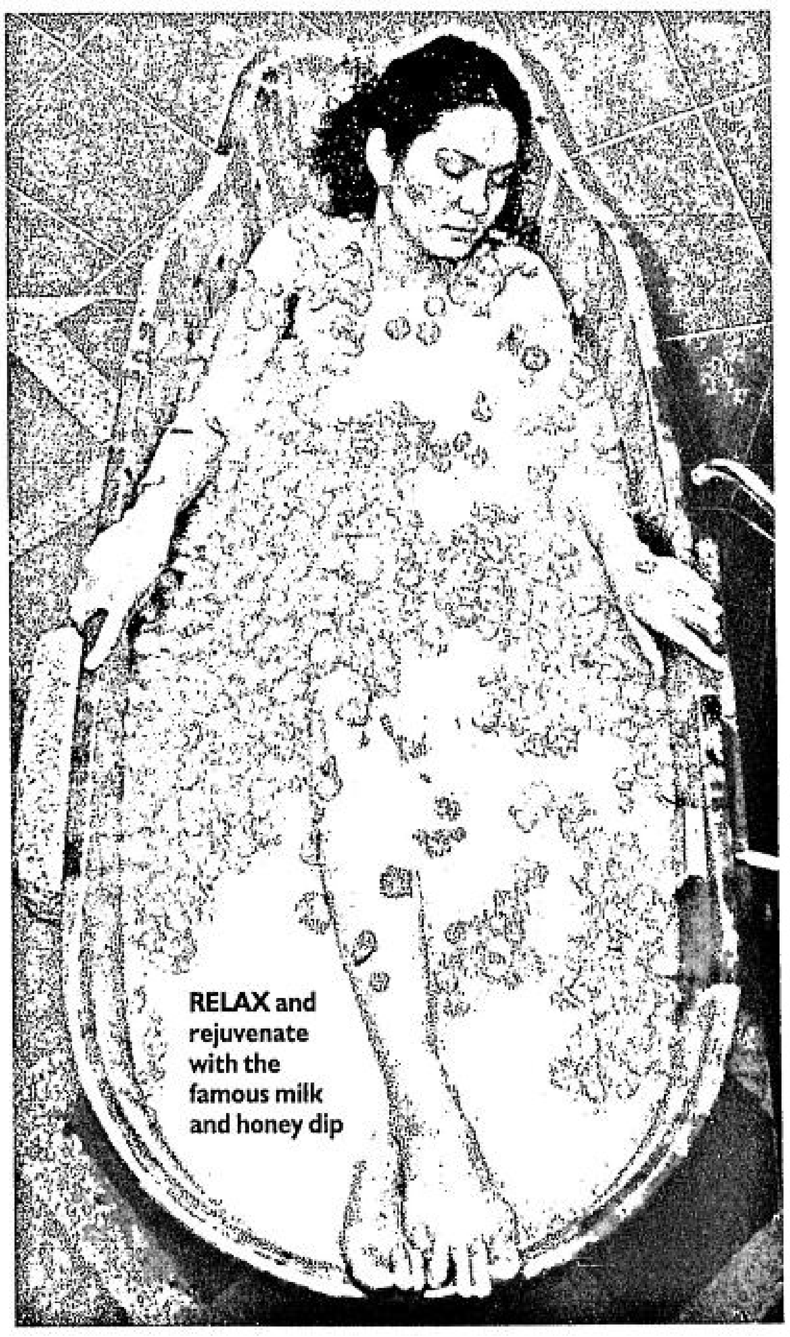


COMPUTERIZED individual sauna

Get fit without throwing a fit

Text by Belle V. Bondoc
Photos by Jim Guiao-Punzalan

THE KT 360 machine is designed for sports training activities. It is recommended for people who play badminton and golf.



RELAX and rejuvenate with the famous milk and honey dip

WHAT do sexy stars Francine Prieto, Diana Zubiri and Christian Vasquez have in common aside from being sexy? They go to Body Worx Spa and Fitness Club to keep fit and stay healthy.

Body Worx on West Avenue, QC, owned and managed by a corporation, has been operating for almost two years now. It sits on a 2,000-sq-m property with ample parking facilities. Space, in fact, is one of the things the club offers its clients, enhancing the sense of tranquillity and relaxation people feel once inside.

Facilities include the gym where classes, including indoor cycling, are held; and a spa with sauna and steam rooms, separate shower and locker areas for men and women.

"The concept is more like a health club. One can work out in the spacious gym (then) relax at the spa," says Grace Viardo, operations manager of Body Worx.

Safe and user-friendly

The gym is really customer-oriented. It has made every effort to ensure that its equipment are safe and user-friendly. Machines of well-known brands are used—from strength training to cardiovascular equipment that even beginners would find easy to use.

Body Worx holds classes that feature relaxation, high endurance and calorie-burning activities. Classes include cardio boxing, cardio dance, Pilates, belly dancing and, the latest from Brazil, the Capoeira, a combination of martial arts and dancing.

The club has expanded its services to include massages—Shiatsu and Swedish; reflexology; facials using only top-of-the-line products from Switzerland; and an array of specialized body treatments, which include exfoliating scrub, the highly recommended milk and honey dip, and a herbal dip to help people with insomnia. Clients claim, with the herbal dip, they do not need to take sleeping pills to get a good night's sleep.

The club is proud of its imported "Chinese master," who performs lymphatic massage or the so-called Chinese massage using pressure to alleviate pain, and foot reflex to rejuvenate and relax not only the feet but the entire body as well. The master can detect ailments and determine if body parts are functioning well.

Personalized approach

The club targets the A and B groups—mostly professionals like businessmen, doctors, lawyers, accountants.

Body Worx has about 30-35 staff members, including gym instructors who are certified physical therapists trained not only in injury prevention but also in proper nutrition. "Our instructors who actually do physical training are making sure there is zero injury," says Viardo.

Upon enrollment, clients will be asked to go through a fitness test. The body-mass index (BMI), body fat percentage and lean muscle percentage will be calculated with the use of the Tanita body fat analyzer. Results will also be recorded.

Clients may set clear goals, address personal concerns and discuss health objectives with their physical instructor before adopting a workout program. Those who are obese or have heart problems are advised to have their doctors check them up before starting any fitness program.

The club has in-house nutritionists who design special diets for clients.

Lifestyle adjustment

The fitness programs, according to Viardo, are not just designed for physical wellness but lifestyle adjustment as well. "Most executives who work out in the gym are usually in a hurry but they want to work off the day's stress, so we design programs for such busy people—like a 30-minute program—because we want to give them what they need, a complete workout that will help them manage stress in a manner that is physically acceptable," she adds.

Viardo believes that their edge over other fitness centers is service. "We focus on client satisfaction above all else."

Safety is another thing the club guarantees guests. "They can leave their things anywhere while working out and feel at ease. It's like their second home," she adds.

The club, which now has 500 members, plans to expand to cater to a more diverse market. According to Viardo, another branch may open in Binondo or Makati.

To complete the club's wellness package, the mini café at the lobby offers low-fat meals—sandwiches and refreshments—especially made for diet-conscious individuals.

Body Worx offers a competitive membership package that covers classes and free use of the facilities. There's a fix joining fee and monthly fees that depend on the facilities they want to avail of: P1,500, P1,900 or the P2,500. Walk-ins are allowed for a fee.

Body Worx has an ongoing promo, the P299 massage available on Wednesdays on a first-come, first-served basis.

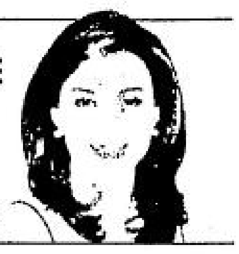
The gym is open 6 a.m.-10 p.m. on weekdays and 9 a.m.-6 p.m. on Sundays, while the spa is open 2 p.m.-12 mn on weekdays and 2-8 p.m. on Sundays. Call 4103866, 3729800, 3746819 or fax 3732800.

E-mail the author at bbondoc@inquirer.com.ph

Creation requires intention

INSIDE OUT

Cory Quirino



ANYTHING that you create in life is connected to that unseen yet known part of you that is indestructible. This is the place, they say, where all dreams are born.

In the past, creation was largely dependent on the exertion of one's will and the assertion of one's ego. Today, from a holistic point of view, creation is not possible without intention, one that lies on the higher levels of consciousness—what sages call instant awakening.

Getting connected

Why are there so many people who feel disconnected, cut off from life, not in tune with life's heartbeat? If you are feeling down, depressed and desperate, it's time to reconnect with the Force of the Universe.

Dr. Wayne W. Dyer, in his bestseller "The Power of Intention," states that you can make the world you dream of for yourself. All you need is to tap the power of intention. The main reason for the disconnection? Ego.

As defined, ego involves six primary statements:

- I am what I have. My possessions define me.
- I am what I do. My achievements define me.
- I am what others think of me. My reputation defines me.
- I am separate from everyone. My body defines me as alone.
- I am separate from all that is missing in my life. My life space is disconnected from my desires.
- I am separate from God. My life depends on God's assessment of my worthiness.

To get connected, and to control and suppress the ego, look at these beliefs and do some readjustments. Weaken the ego to strengthen the intention.

Seven faces

Tremendous energy is in store for anyone who can adopt and put into action the seven faces of intention.

- Be creative. There must be something you want to do with your life. Now is the time to act on it. Do not fear. Just follow your inner voice.
- Be kind. All will multiply for you if you practice kindness. Be kind to others, to all of life, to yourself.
- Be love. What a powerful line! It is said that being in a state of love works miracles. Love has transformative powers. If you do not allow its energies to flow from and into your heart, then you will not grow, but would instead be stunted.
- Be beauty. Look at all things with a pair of eyes focused on beauty. Adopt the awareness of beauty rather than ugliness. Believe that you are beautiful—a manifestation of the power that conceived you.
- Be ever-expansive. Life is alive. Be in a state of readiness to embrace all the goodness in store for you.
- Be abundant. There are no limits, no scarcity, no doubts. Expansion is yours for the taking. Don't hold yourself back.
- Be receptive. Stay in harmony with the goodness of life. Be open to newness.

Matching game

Match the inside with the outside. Your inner desires must be in synch with your words. Example: You won't have a sunny day (even if you want the sunshine) if you keep saying that it will rain all day.

Unite the end result with your dream. In short, know in your head that it is done—your dream is your deed.

Drive away your negative thoughts. Match your positive thoughts with positive gifts of manifestation.

Example:

No match: I don't have any money.

Match: I attract unlimited resources now.

No match: My girlfriend/boyfriend/lover/wife/husband is a grouch and a tyrant.

Match: I focus on the good side of my loving partner.

No match: I am weak and sickly.

Match: I love myself enough to adopt a healthy lifestyle.

No match: I hate my house. It's haunted and creepy.

Match: I value my next home which will be peaceful and comfortable.

Practicing intention

At breakfast, think this thought: I love my body and I will feed it only nourishing food. Eat your fruits, cereals (no excess sugar), omelette with a pleasant state of mind.

At the office, hold your temper if you feel like lashing out at anyone. Take a deep breath, exhale slowly and repeat to yourself: "In control is better than out of control."

At home, instead of being a couch potato, get off the sofa, throw away your bag of chips and chocolate bars. Repeat: "Good food, not junk food."

At happy hour, happiness is not more than one glass of alcohol. Affirm: "Moderation not intoxication."

LOVE & LIGHT!

Watch "Life" by Cory Quirino, 11:30 p.m., Wednesdays, Studio 23.

Listen to "Ma-beauty Po Naman," 6-7 p.m., Sundays, Radyo Patrol, DZMM 630.

Resistance makes you stronger

Part Four

WELL AND GOOD
Tina Juan

THE MOST common way to do strength training is by lifting weights. But pumping iron is not the only way to become stronger. Any exercise done against resistance can be effective depending on goals.

Resistance is in the form of free weights, machines, rubber bands, your own body weight, manual resistance, and the water around you when doing aqua exercises. Know the advantages and disadvantages of each type so you can choose the most appropriate.

Free weights

Aside from dumbbells and barbells, free weights can also be weighted vests or medicine balls, ankle weights or any external weight carried with your hands or strapped to your body or limbs.

Free weights are the most popular form of resistance because they are easy to use and are relatively cheap. You can work all body muscles with simple exercises that don't require complicated positions.

Since you need to "balance" the weights, your weaker side works as hard as the stronger side (this is more true for dumbbells than for barbells). This prevents muscular imbalances.

However, free weights can be unsafe without proper supervision or know-how. The most common mistake is to lift weights with fast jerky movements. If you lift heavy weights, you need a spotter for certain exercises. Otherwise, if you experience muscle failure, the weights could crash down on you.

Some strength training exercises are not possible with free weights. They are best done with machines or rubber bands. Examples are lat pull-downs and seated rows.

Machines

The resistance of machines can come from weight stacks, pressurized air or springs (like Pilates equipment). Machines have an automatic safety feature. The weights won't fall on you if you get tired. That's why hotel and resort gyms without instructors prefer machines. Owners feel confident they won't find a guest pinned by a barbell.

Machines can also be easily adjusted for resistance. With free weights, you have to get out of your position to change dumbbells or to increase/decrease weight plates on the barbell.

Machines with fixed patterns are supposed to ensure correct movement. This is not always true. The machine may not match the body's natural movement or it may not have the necessary adjustments for your particular height and limb length.

Fixed movement machines will not require you to balance the weights. This can be an advantage for people with weak trunk muscles. It is also a safety feature for people needing to lift heavy weights.

Cable machines are more versatile, allowing more freedom of movement and, thus, more exercise variations. But you need an expert fitness trainer to use them properly.

Rubber bands

Since they don't weigh much, rubber bands are easy to bring when traveling. When looped around a doorknob, the leg of a heavy piece of furniture or a hook on the wall, you can do the same exercises as on a cable machine.

Rubber bands are appropriate for people who only need to develop average strength levels. For those wanting a significant increase in strength and mass, free weights or machines are more suitable.

Doing rubber band exercises with a bent wrist can cause carpal tunnel syndrome, a painful condition that occurs when strained forearm muscles swell and press on nerves.

Body weight

Push-up, abdominal crunch, yoga and mat Pilates are body weight exercises.

Body weight exercises can be done anywhere, as you don't need equipment. But some complicated positions may be needed to isolate muscles you want to work. It may be difficult to vary the resistance of an exercise since you can only change positions in so many ways.

There is a limit to how much resistance you can work with since you are relying on your own body weight.

Manual resistance

Manual resistance strength training requires few or no equipment (a rope, towel or pole may be used) but involves two people—a lifter and a spotter. The lifter performs the exercise while the spotter provides resistance by applying pressure with his/her arms.

For example, when doing a shoulder lateral raise, the spotter stands behind the lifter and places his hands on the lifter's forearms. As the lifter raises his arms sideways, the spotter applies a downward pressure while allowing the lifter to lift the arms. In the final position, the spotter applies additional pressure.

With this system, the spotter can control the speed, form and technique of the lifter. More pressure can be applied in positions where the muscle is strongest and vice-versa. The disadvantage is you need two people, who should both be trained in their alternating roles as lifter and spotter. They should also have similar strength levels.

Aqua

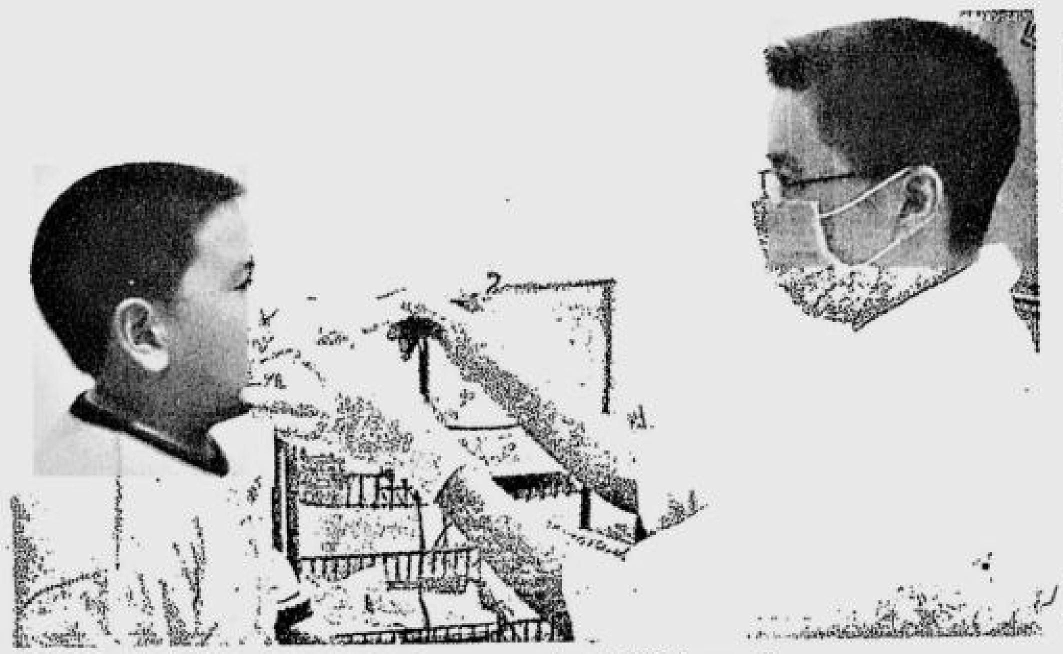
In water exercises, the resistance is all around you, the water makes you feel weightless even if you are overweight, and you always feel cool. As you get stronger, you can increase resistance by using special equipment that create a dragging effect as you move against the water.

The biggest disadvantage of this training is you need a swimming pool. Also, as the instructor cannot see well what you do underwater, it will be difficult to correct your technique.

* * *

The Association of Fitness Professionals of the Phils. will hold a seminar for gym and aerobics instructors on Aug. 7 at UP Diliman. Call 920-2762 or text 0917-518-1202.

Visit www.tinajuanfitness.info



DR. Orlando Lim checks the teeth of a young patient in SM Megamall.

Dentists go on mall tour

THOUSANDS participated in Pfizer Consumer Healthcare's Listerine Dynamite Dental Tour recently in SM malls.

With a highly sophisticated intra-oral camera that captured images inside the oral cavity, dentists organized by the oral care category group of Pfizer Consumer Healthcare conducted free dental checkups and gave advice on proper oral care in SM Megamall and SM malls in Baguio, Cebu and Davao. Free dental checkups were also held in Mercury Drug branches in Greenhills Padilla Arcade, Festival Mall Alabang, Romulo Cubao and Harrison Plaza.

The tour reiterated the basic procedure for healthy, plaque-free, tartar-free clean mouth—brushing, flossing and rinsing with a clinically proven antiseptic like Listerine. More and more dentists now recommend the use of antiseptic mouthwash since recent studies show that an average person brushes his/her teeth for only 46 seconds instead of the recommended two minutes.

Mallgoers participated in interactive games like Listerine Puzzler, Listerine Striker and Listerine Wire Maze. Listerine Mouthwash boasts of a 99.9 percent germ-killing power that can reduce germs that cause bad breath, plaque and gingivitis.

DR. Manuel Tapnio teaches a young boy the proper way to brush during a dental tour in SM Baguio.

EXERCISE OF THE WEEK

Backward bend

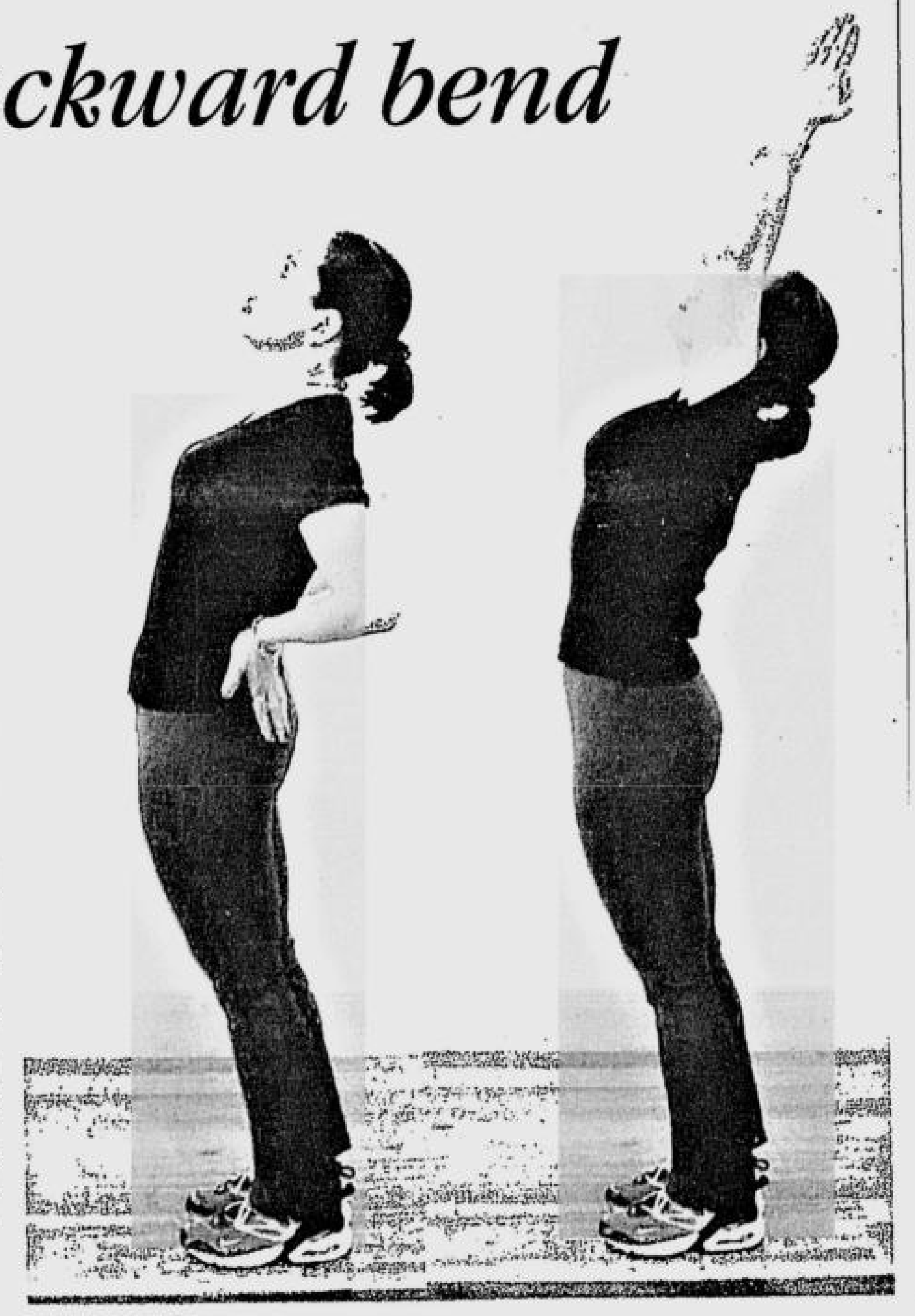
STRETCHES the abdominal muscles and the muscles in front of the hips. A good counter-balance exercise for people who sit for long periods.

Exercise:

1. Place your hands at the back of your hips.
2. Start leaning backward by gently pressing the hips forward. Elongate your spine as you lift your chest to the ceiling.
3. You should feel a mild stretch in the abdominal muscles and a mild pressure in the lower back area.
4. Hold for five to 10 seconds.

Performance tips:

1. Instead of just arching the lower back, think of pressing the hips forward and lifting the chest to the ceiling.
2. Continue to breathe as you hold the stretch.
3. For a more advanced version, bring your arms overhead.
4. If you have any kind of lower back problem, please consult your doctor first before doing this stretch.



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CEBU • MARILAO • DAVAO • CAGAYAN DE ORO

Gifted child campaign kicks off

WYETH Philippines, Inc. has launched its Gifted Children campaign with "The Secret Behind the Gifted Child", a month-long series of media appearances by some of the country's most celebrated "gifted" kids. Gifted children will perform with R & B princess, Kyla. Also in Wyeth's Weaning Insights series, people will get to know the stories behind the incredible talents of gifted children.

Wyeth, maker of the ProGifted Formula, has always pushed for the development of milk supplements for babies aged 6 months and older. Its formula is said to bring out the "gift" in every child.

Over the years, Wyeth Philippines, Inc. has helped develop and nurture gifted kids. Some of these gifted children include violin prodigy Junior Saraza, concert pianist Brian Sapigao, saxophonist Jacob Sarreal, and wonderkids Paulina and Pocholo Gutierrez and Shaira Luna.

Wyeth supports the Philippine Association for the Gifted.

The Weaning Insights sked for this month: Bacolod Inasal (QC Circle), 9 a.m., Aug. 7; Max's Shaw Blvd.,2 p.m., Aug. 7; Max's Olongapo, 10 a.m., Aug. 13; Nesta's Restaurant, Roxas City, 9 a.m., Aug. 20; SM Cebu and Max's Dasmariñas, Cavite, both at 10 a.m.,Aug. 21; Dottie's Place at Almond Inland Hotel, Butuan City, 2 p.m., Aug. 27; and Grand Regal Hotel, Davao,10 a.m., Aug. 28.

Call 3721145.